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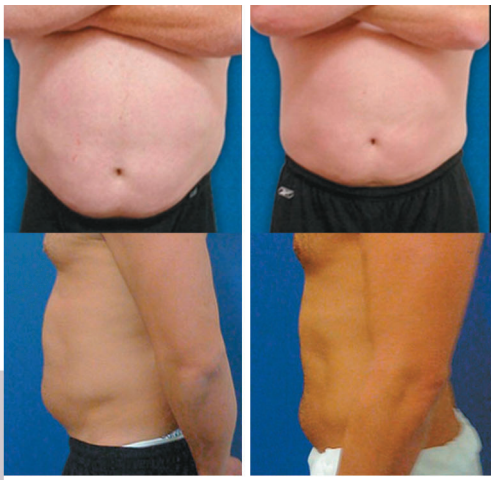
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Another WTF Moment



Some mornings, you wake up hoping for any excuse not to have to think about Sarah Palin that day—but there she'll be.

On January 26, it was Palin's thoughts on President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address the night before.

Following her instinct to be unsupportive of any utterance made by Obama, Palin rushed to play off the less-genteel acronym derived from Obama's State of the Union theme, "Win the Future."

Appearing on Greta Van Susteren's Fox News show *On the Recorder*, Palin took several potshots at Obama: "His theme last night was 'WTF'—'Winning the Future.' I thought, OK, that acronym is spot-on. There were a lot of WTF moments throughout that speech."

Palin dwelled on that theme throughout her critique, choosing to flog a tasteless joke instead of coming up with content.

"What the F***!" is as close as I may come here to repeating the acronym Palin had in mind, but I have no doubt she knows of which she speaks, creating, as she steams through life, endless such moments herself in her meteoric streak across the political firmament.

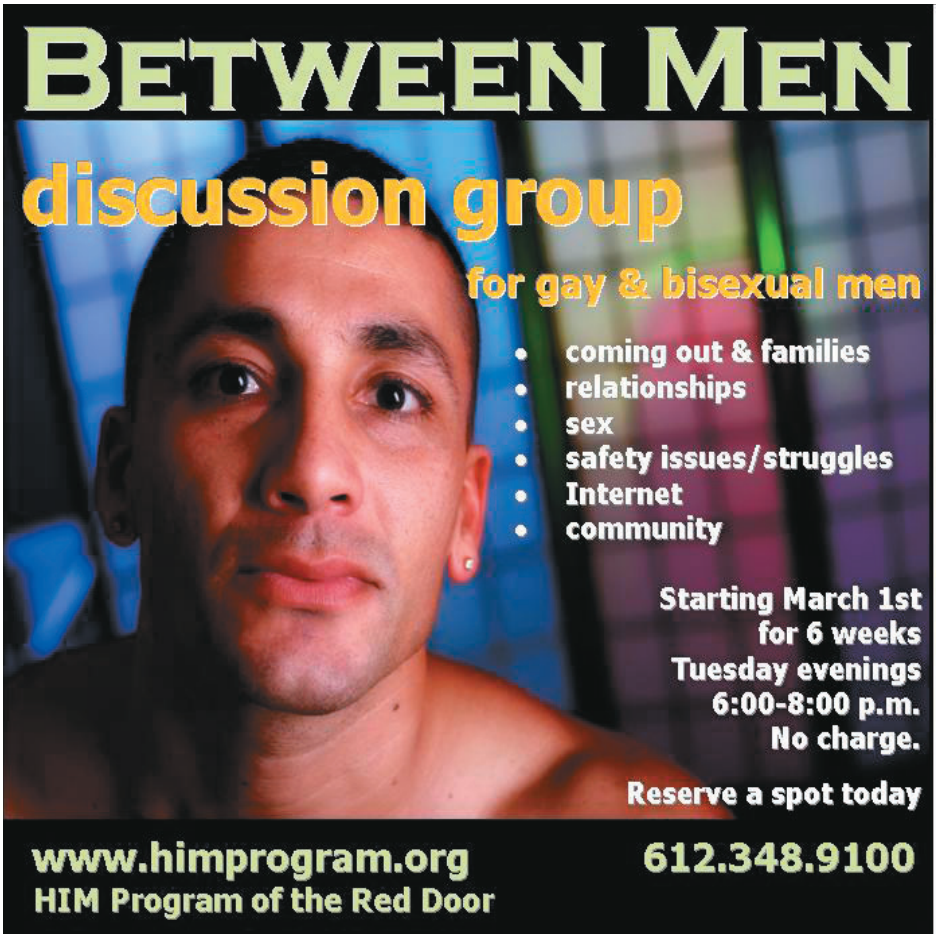
Of course, we in Minnesota have our very-own Palin-Lite: Congresswoman Michele Bachmann—who elbowed in ahead of Budget Committee Chair Paul Ryan Jr. (Republican-Wisconsin), chosen to deliver the Republican official response—to air her unofficial Tea Party comments.

The New York Times Op-Editor Gail deftly compared the two: "If Palin and Bachmann were your coworkers, Palin would be the one sneaking out early to go bowling, while Bachmann would stay late to reorganize the office seating chart to reflect her own personal opinion of who most deserves to be near the water cooler."

I more am reminded of Barney Fife, Deputy Sheriff on the old *Mayberry R.F.D.* TV show. With false bravado and ill-founded certainty, he repeatedly blundered into situations, escalating them until his posturing turned others against him, and he ran to hide behind his cousin, Sheriff Andy Taylor. It was played for laughs, but the real life Barney Fifes jeopardize the health and safety of others.

Roz Chast's most recent *New Yorker* cartoon cries, "Introducing Doc Palin!" while Palin, crosscut saw in hand, announces, "I'm not one of those '*insiders*' who went to 'medical school!' I just go by my God-given sense of **right** and **wrong**!'"

It should be comforting that someone else starts her day thinking of Palin. Too late: I've begun dreaming of a 2012 Palin-Bachmann/Bachmann-Palin ticket. WTF! **E.B. BOATNER**





LETTER



Wesley Church Continues United Methodist Church Commitment

Thank you for your thoughtful "Historic Wesley Church Launches Inclusive New Incarnation" ["Queer As Folks," *Lavender*, January 27]. As you correctly indicated, "Welcoming everyone, including the GLBT community," is our goal and our highest priority as a church. We seek to continue Wesley's pioneering spirit, and the United Methodist Church's deep commitment to justice, kindness, and faithfulness. We are deeply grateful for the "hope and encouragement" we have received from the community and *Lavender* Magazine.

GREG RENSTROM
MINISTER, WESLEY CHURCH

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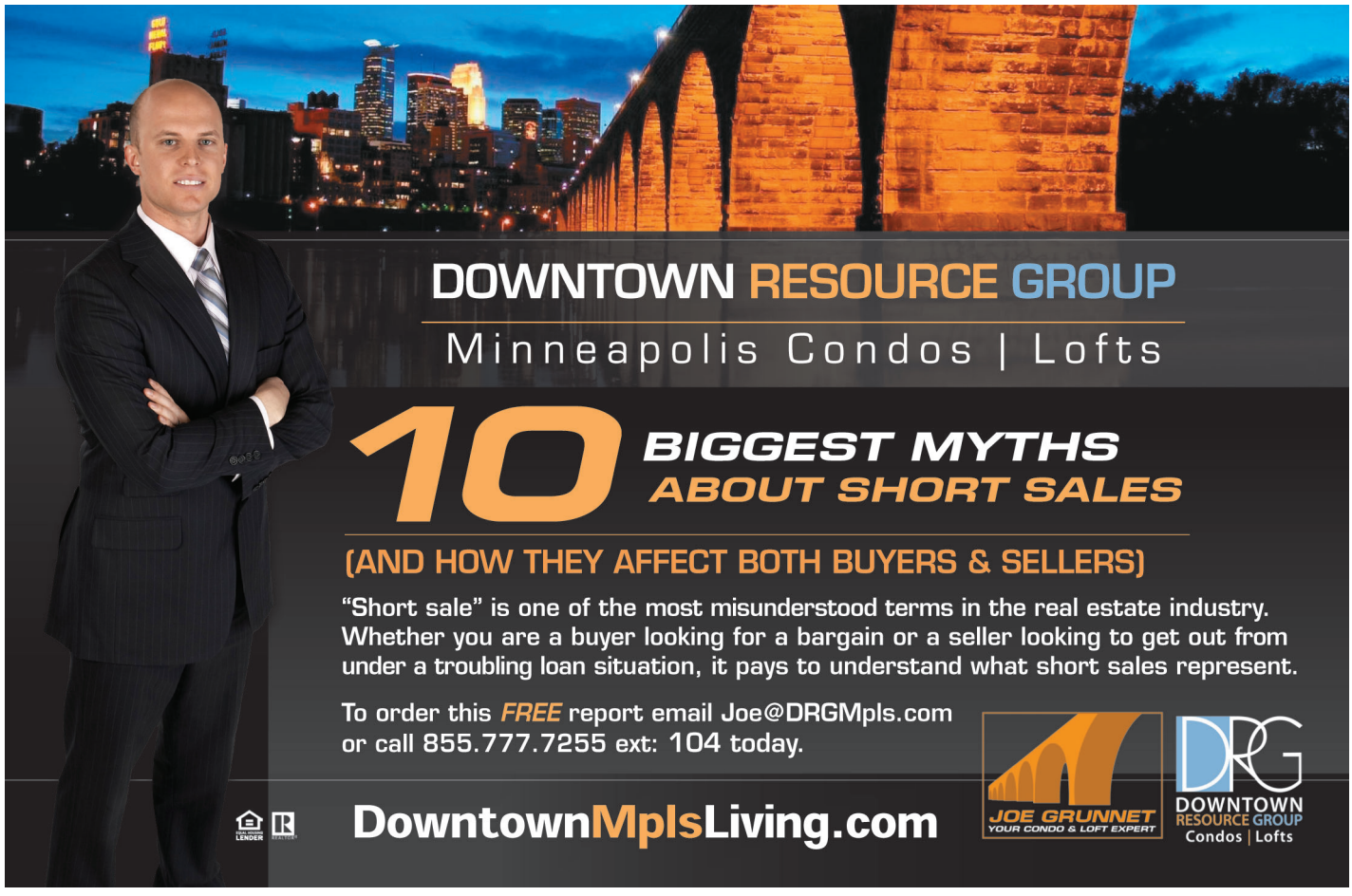


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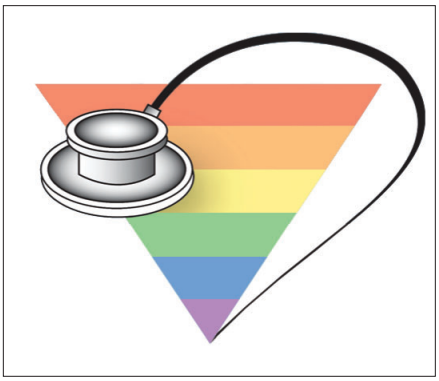
BY GEORGE HOLDGRAFER



Anita McColley. Photo Courtesy of Anita McColley

McColley Crowned St. Paul Winter Carnival Klondike Kate

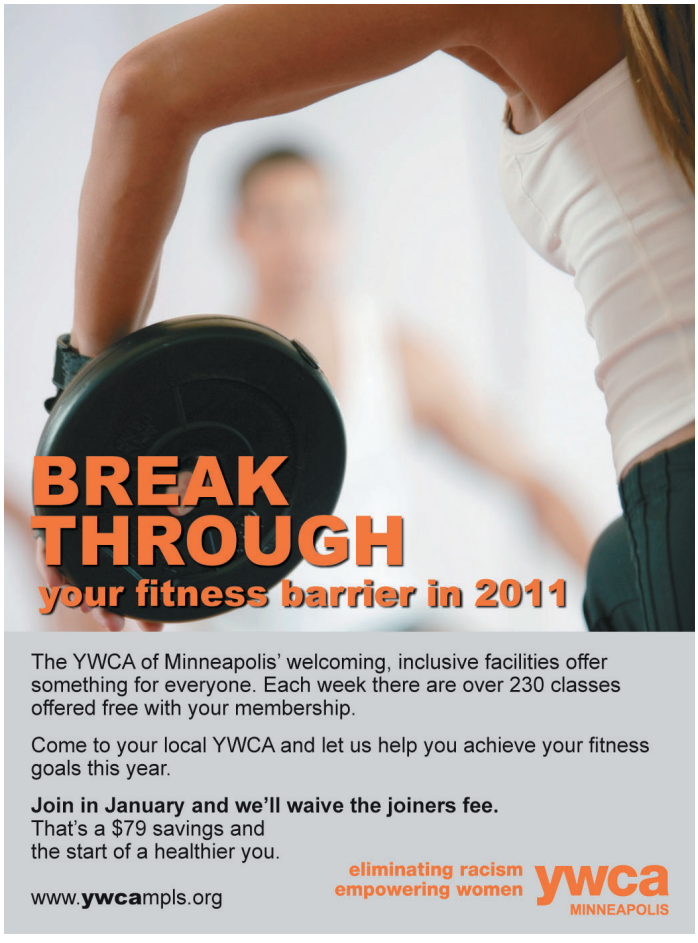
ANITA MCCOLLEY of Minneapolis was crowned Klondike Kate of this year's St. Paul Winter Carnival. As her partner, Sara Pecor, shared, the new royalty is an out and proud lesbian. The titleholder of the annual event in January and February is named for the original Klondike Kate, Kathleen Rockwell, a colorful figure in the Alaska Gold Rush of 1898 who had beauty and charm—plus a man who "done her wrong."



Rainbow Health Initiative Photo Contest Under Way

IN ORDER to combat the often negative and unhealthy images of LGBTQ individuals and families portrayed in society, the 2011 Rainbow Health Initiative Photo Contest is now under way. Winning images will be used in a variety of media and marketing to portray healthy and positive LBGTQ lifestyles in Minnesota, including a feature in the June 2 *Lavender Pride Edition*. For more information or to submit photos, visit <http//:www.rainbowhealth.org/photocontest>.





BY GEORGE HOLDGRAFER



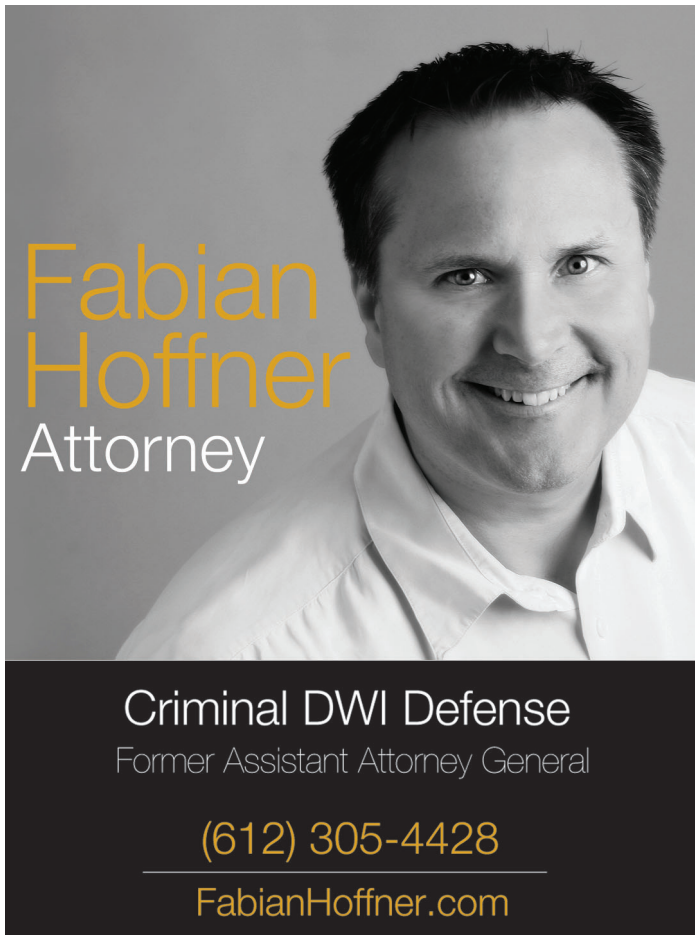
Lorraine Teel. Photo by Sophie Hantzes

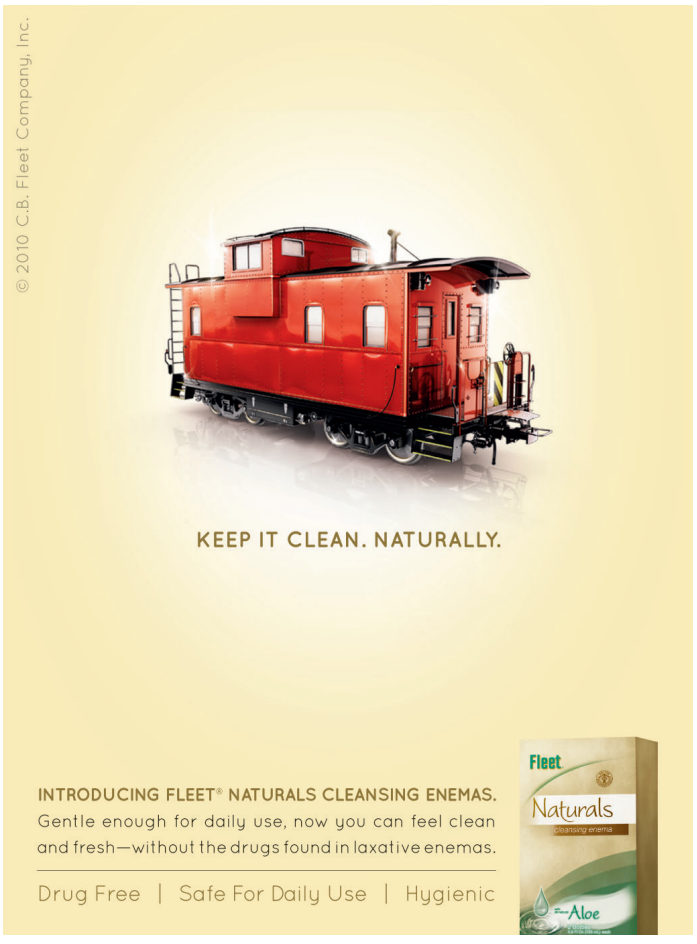
MAP Executive Director Teel Announces Retirement

MINNESOTA AIDS Project (MAP) Executive Director Lorraine Teel has announced that she will retire in April. In 2010, she celebrated her 20th anniversary in the position. A retirement party for Teel is being planned for late March. Within the next few months, the MAP Board of Directors will hire an Interim Executive Director, who will be charged with maintaining the organization's high level of service while a search for Teel's successor is conducted.

2010 Minnesota Red Ribbon Ride Raised $401,370

ACCORDING TO the recently-concluded Minnesota Red Ribbon Ride annual audit, in 2010, the event raised $401,370, of which 79 percent was channeled to the beneficiaries. Proceeds of this year's ride, which takes place July 14-17, will go to eight HIV/AIDS organizations: African American AIDS Task Force, The Aliveness Project, Clare Housing, Hope House of St. Croix Valley, Minnesota AIDS Project, One Heartland, Park House, and Rural AIDS Action Network. For more information, visit <www.redribbonride.org>.





BY E.B. BOATNER



MONEY MATTERS

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Dealing with financial reality, even for those in the GLBT community, often ranks with root canal surgery and ice dam removal. But money *does* matter, and like the unattended molar or megacicle, inattention to finances comes with a price.

Seeking fiscal advice, *Lavender* approached five local experts: Kelly Clark, Principal, Hamilton Clark Group; Mark D. Holt, Attorney and Financial Advisor, The Harbor Group Inc.; Roya Moltaji, Certified Financial Planner™, MetLife; Karen R. Palm, CPA, CFP, CMA; and Lee Roehl, Tax Daddy, Founder, and Partner, ROR Financial Services.

What financial problems do you find most prevalent in the GLBT community?

Clark: The biggest mistake is ignoring long-term needs and avoiding long-term plans. Many times, people focus their attention on what is enjoyable and fun, two words not often associated with insurance and investments.

Holt: The legal distribution of the assets is a prevalent problem. Legally undefined relationships leave gray areas when planning and investing.

Moltaji: Income and asset inequity. Because the couples we work with are considered "unmarried," their assets cannot simply be shared. Rather, one partner must shift assets to the other, and this shift is subject to gift tax laws.

Lack of proper legal documents and beneficiary listings: It is often more important for members of the GLBT community to legally document their wishes in the event of incapacitation or death than it is for their heterosexual counterparts.

Palm: Often, there is a lack of retirement planning. The psychological toll of being in the GLBT community can create a "live for the moment" lifestyle that can result in a large credit card debt and unwillingness to deal with the future.

Roehl: The GLBT community has many of the same issues as the general population. Our unique challenges are in recognition of couples—how they pay taxes, become recognized as parents, own property together, leave property to one another.

What financial areas affect the GLBT community more than others?

Clark: Heterosexual couples have ↦

Money does matter, and like the unattended molar or megacicle, inattention to finances comes with a price.



Mark D. Holt
The Harbor Group

Roya Moltaji
MetLife
Photo by Noah Wolf





codified benefits. The law takes care of them in ways [that it does not provide for] same-sex couples. The failure to plan, write out, and execute a long-term strategy together is costly.

Important documents to include: advanced directives, durable power of attorney, wills, and trusts. These documents should be drafted in conjunction with an overarching financial plan designed with an independent professional by a competent attorney.

Holt: GLBT partners should be more cautious with their legal planning and financial situations. There are so many hidden clauses that people can miss if not handled by a professional. Beneficiaries should be clearly chosen, and the legal documentation of assets and the beneficiaries of one's assets are essential.

Moltaji: Estate issues certainly affect GLBT more than heterosexual clients. Estate tax does not come into play when a spouse dies—it occurs when a nonspousal beneficiary inherits assets. It is important for people to be cognizant not only of the federal estate tax threshold, but also of the Minnesota state death tax threshold, which is much lower than the federal side.

Palm: The proper titling of property should be checked after a real estate purchase. On occasion, property that partners thought was in joint tenancy (the other owner inherits) was tenants-in-common (interest passes through the will), so the survivor could end up owning their house with their deceased partner's family. Periodically, check beneficiary designations on 401Ks, IRAs, life insurance, and wills to make sure you know what is on them—that they fit your current situation, that they are accurate.

Roehl: Having an attorney that understands the needs of GLBT couples cannot be overemphasized. Wills, health care directives, powers of attorney are *critical* for our community.

What about people who have not been fiscally frugal or farsighted?

Clark: Begin. It is never too late. Contact someone who will take the time to introduce the concepts, explain the tools, and relate to your needs. Do not allow your past to become your future.

Holt: It is never too late to begin, but the sooner the better to receive maximum potential of all future income possibilities. Meet with a professional who can explain the options available. Education is the most important aspect to making the right choices.

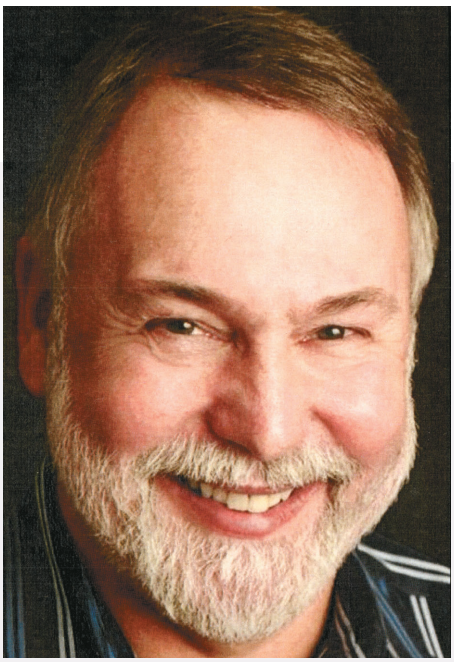
Moltaji: The most difficult thing is to start. Once you've begun, it will be easier to keep going, and to make positive changes.

Palm: I recommend reading *How to Get Out of Debt, Stay Out of Debt and Live Prosperously,* by Gerald Mundis. It will get you started at any point of your life.

Roehl: Forgive yourself. Then, create a budget you can live within. Include money for past debt and savings. Spend only what is left. It can be helpful to tell someone you trust about your goals, and have them hold you accountable

What are three basic financial questions one should ask oneself and then answer?

Clark: (1) Am I comfortable with my relationship to my finances? (2) What are my long-term goals? (3) Are my intentions reflected in my actions? ↦



Lee Roehl
ROR Financial Services
Photo Courtesy of Lee Roehl



Karen R. Palm
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Holt: (1) Where do I see myself in the future? (2) How does money affect where I see myself in the future? (3) Am I doing what I need now to ensure I will be on track with my future plans?

Moltaji: (1) Do I feel stress about financial matters? (2) Is there something I know I can be doing better for myself and/or my family financially? (3) What will it take for me to change, and when will I finally commit to it?

Palm: (1) How many hours do I have to work for this purchase? (2) How much does this cost me a year? (3) (For big purchases) The "Ah-ha!" factor–"Will this give me the 'Ah-ha!' feeling every time I use it?"

Roehl: (1) When do I want to have financial independence? (2) Am I putting my future at stake with the spending I'm doing today? (3) Who can help me be smarter about money?

Have you other suggestions/cautions for *Lavender* readers?

Clark: All too often, we see competent, qualified professionals respond to the needs of their employers over the needs of their clients. If possible, use an independent—even pay them hourly for the consulting rather than having them be commission-driven. Start at the beginning, plan the work, and then work the plan.

Holt: Reevaluate regularly. The market changes and people's individual needs change. Make sure your money is working for you.

Moltaji: Please take your financial life seriously. It's very exciting to buy a flat-screen TV, but very frightening to be a 75-year-old employee at a retail store because you don't have enough money to live on. Have realistic expectations, and be consistent.

Palm: Whenever you receive a bonus, raise, or windfall—big or small—split it into four (not equal) parts, and consider: (1) the present (today's needs); (2) the past (debt); (3) the future (savings and goals); (4) sharing.

Roehl: Live well, do good work, and be kind to others. ■

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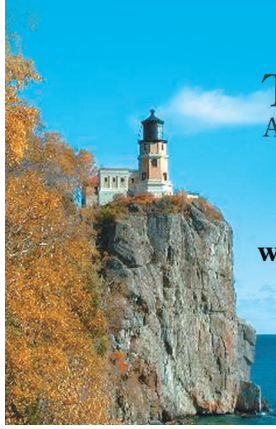


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BIG GAY NEWS

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NATIONAL

US MILITARY ROLLS OUT PLAN TO REPEAL GAY BAN

The Associated Press reports that US Defense Secretary Robert Gates has issued a memorandum directing policy staff to move ahead with ending the ban on openly gay service members. Pentagon officials will complete implementation plans, and training will begin in February. Gates called it a milestone for the armed services.

ILLINOIS CIVIL UNIONS BECOME LAW

In January, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed legislation that legalizes same-sex civil unions in the state. It gives official state recognition for gay couples that provides many of the same rights granted to married couples, including inheritance and medical decision-making.

COURT DENIES REQUEST TO DISMISS DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL LAWSUIT

According to the Associated Press, the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco issued an order in January denying the US government's request to suspend a lawsuit challenging the military's ban on openly gay service members. It ordered the Department of Justice to file documentation in February explaining why a lower court ruling that the ban is unconstitutional should be overturned. The court did not explain why it rejected the government's request.

CHOI ORDERED TO REPAY MILITARY AFTER DADT DISCHARGE

Huffington Post reports Lt. Dan Choi, who became an outspoken critic of the US ban on openly gay service members after he was discharged for coming out himself in 2009, has been notified that he must repay the US Defense Department in connection with his discharge. According to Choi, the department sent him a letter stating he owed the US government $2,500 for the "unearned portion of your enlistment or reenlistment bonus." He was told if he doesn't pay within 30 days, the debt could be referred to a private col-

lection agency. Choi, who's refusing to pay, has written a letter to the President explaining why.

WORLD

FRENCH GAY-MARRIAGE BAN IS CONSTITUTIONAL

France's Constitutional Court ruled in January that the country's law banning gay marriage does not violate the Constitution. The court said any changes to the law are up to the Parliament. Gays and lesbians can form civil unions in France, but they do not provide inheritance rights or joint custody of goods.

UGANDAN GAY RIGHTS ACTIVIST FOUND BEATEN TO DEATH

CBS reports that David Kato, a leading gay-rights activist in Uganda, was found beaten to death in his home near the country's capital, Kampala. Police have said they can't yet conclude that a link exists between his sexual orientation and his death. However, BBC reports some of Kato's friends state that he received death threats after his name, photograph, and address were printed in a local newspaper as part of the "top 100 homosexuals" in the country.

MAN CLAIMS GLAXO DRUG MADE HIM "GAY SEX ADDICT"

According to Agence France-Presse, a 51-year-old French father of two is suing GlaxoSmithKline over a drug used to treat Parkinson's disease that the man argues turned him into a gambling gay sex addict. His lawyers argue that his behavior radically changed after he first started taking the drug in 2003. The man claims he became a compulsive gay sex addict, and engaged in risky sexual behavior that eventually led to his being raped. His lawyers assert that the company knew the drug had undesired side effects.

AMSTERDAM GAY AND BI MEN HAVE MORE RISKY SEX

Reuters reports that a new study has found more gay and bisexual men in Amsterdam are having unprotected sex. Researches believe the trend is related to complacency caused in part by the prevalence of powerful antiretroviral drugs. The study is printed in the journal *AIDS*. **WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY BRADLEY TRAYNOR**







Long Live Sarah Lindstrom and Desiree Shelton!

Finally, a story with a happy ending for gay and lesbian teens in the Anoka-Hennepin School District. And by happy ending, I mean a story that didn't end up with a gay or lesbian student getting bullied…or worse. More like a sigh-of-relief ending.

Have you heard the story of Sarah Lindstrom and Desiree Shelton?

The two young women, both 18-year-old seniors at Champlin Park High School, were elected by a plurality of their peers to the school's ceremonial royalty court, part of the annual Snow Days Pep Fest. Having grown up in Houston, Texas, I'm not quite sure what this event entails, or why it needs royalty, but I'm assuming it's similar to homecoming and the court that typically accompanies it.

In years past, the honor of becoming Pep Fest royalty gave the chosen Champlin Park students the chance to walk into their festive assembly in pairs—as in the boy-girl pairs usually selected to be royalty.

That changed, however, earlier this year when Lindstrom and Shelton were elected. A girl-girl pair. The reign of boy-girl had ended. Long live girl-girl!

The prospect of two girls walking into an assembly together in 2011 so frightened Champlin Park school officials that they decided hastily to rewrite the rules of royal procession. Henceforth, all court members would have to enter the assembly alone, with a parent or a favorite teacher.

Brilliant! I'm pretty sure teenagers everywhere wait for the day they can walk into a room of their peers arm in arm with their mother. Or Mrs. Schweitzer, their AP English teacher.

Why do lesbian teens always have to ruin everyone's fun?

The school, in its defense, tried to argue that it completely changed the format of the event solely to protect the girls from being teased.

But teased by whom exactly? The students who elected them to the court in the first place? Maybe the parents or teachers?

I never have met anyone from Champlin, but who knows?

Either that, or the students of Champlin Park High School are so evil, they elected Lindstrom and Shelton to the court solely for the purpose of harassing them during the Pep Fest. In which case, we really should change the name from Champlin to Salem, and start collecting kindling.

Instead of going quietly into the frigid Minnesota January night, Lindstrom and Shelton stood up for their royal rights. With help from the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and the Faegre & Benson law firm, they filed a federal lawsuit against the school district.

Do not mess with lesbians!

Ultimately, the two sides agreed to sit down before a federal judge, and craft a resolution together. The six-hour mediation session resulted in the district allowing Lindstrom and Shelton to do what they'd wanted all along: enter a room together.

Six hours, and Lord knows how much in time and legal fees, for grown adults to step up, and do the right thing.

Anoka-Hennepin School Board Chairman Tom Heidemann called the resolution a "win-win." I'd call it "be grateful you changed your mind before it cost you even more time, money, and credibility."

A real win-win would have involved the district addressing its profound lack of respect for the dignity of its GLBT students, so that a case like this never would have happened in the first place, much less would have needed to be brought before a federal judge—by the students themselves.

Is it any wonder that the Anoka-Hennepin School District has made news repeatedly in the past couple of years in connection with stories of alleged antigay bullying by its students—and, in one notable case, its very teachers?

Champlin Park High School's initial reaction further illustrates that much work needs to be done within the school district. If letting two girls walk hand in hand is reason enough for a federal lawsuit, one wonders how well GLBT students really are being served day to day.

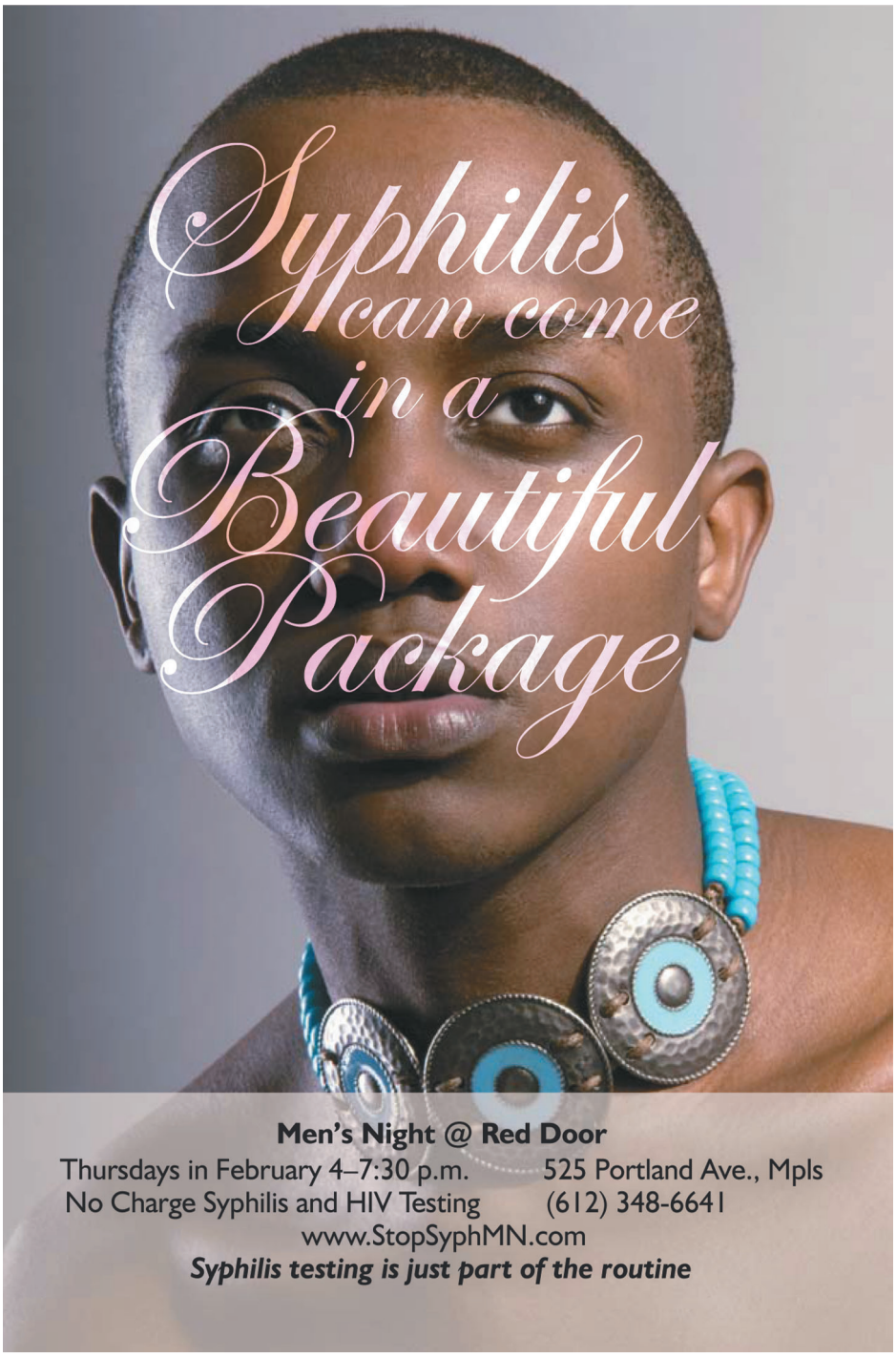
On a happy note, Lindstrom and Shelton did walk in the royal procession together… to the raucous cheers of their fellow students. **BRADLEY TRAYNOR**



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Photos by Sophia Hantzes

















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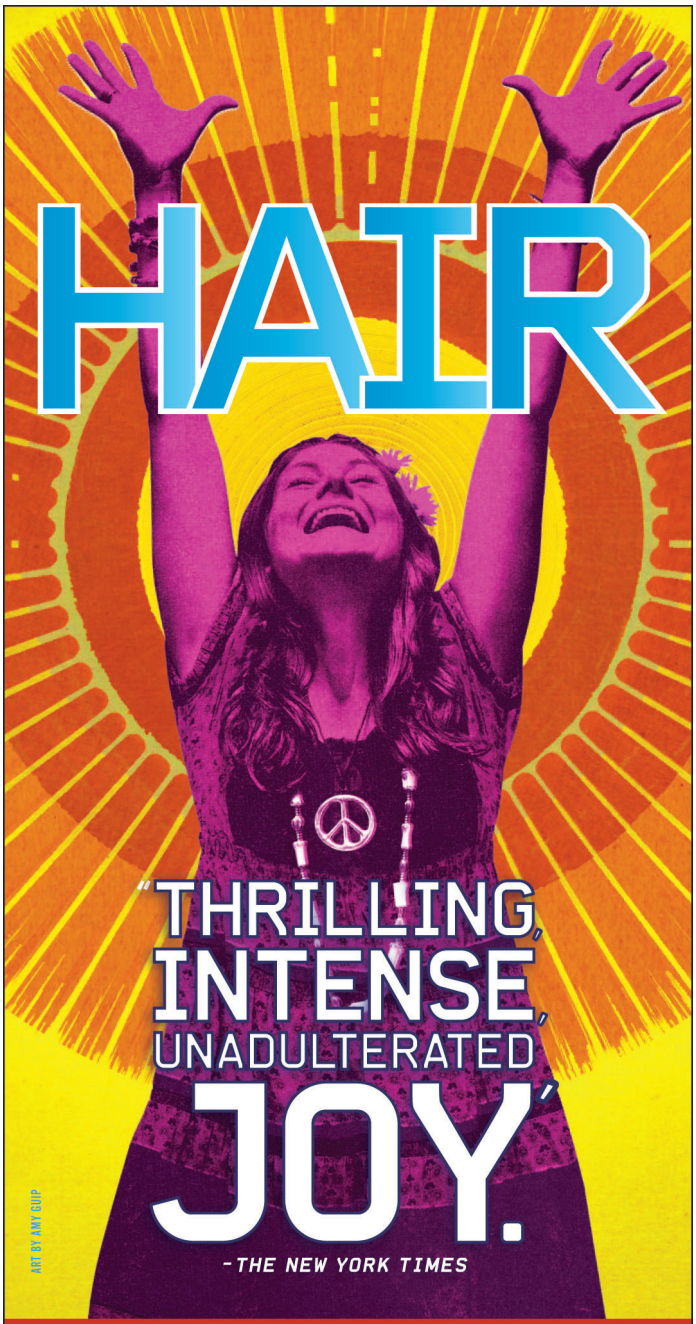
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Photo by Michael Schwartz

PAULA POUNDSTONE HEADS TO THE GUTHRIE

Halley's Comet of Comedy Blazing Through

Like Halley's Comet, she doesn't pass through very often, but when she does, she's spectacular.

Paula Poundstone is appearing at the Guthrie on February 28 with just her trademark stool, mike, and can of Diet Pepsi to astound and delight by her off-the-cuff, straight-from-the-cerebrum running commentary. With only those props, she commands rapt attention through her razor-sharp wit and spontaneity. She interacts spontaneously with real live members of her audience.

But Poundstone is not confined to the stage. Her commentaries pour into your ears from National Public Radio's *Morning Edition.* She remains one of the most popular panelists on *Wait Wait…Don't Tell Me!*, NPR's weekly news quiz show podcast.

The comedian has earned two Cable ACE Awards, an Emmy, and the American Comedy Awards Best Female Stand-Up.

Poundstone's writing credits include such magazines as *Entertainment Weekly*, *Glamour*, and *Mother Jones*, as well as *The Los Angeles Times*. Her first book, *There's Nothing in this Book I Meant to Say*, was published in 2006.

Recognized as one of Comedy Central's 100 greatest stand-ups of all time in 2004, Poundstone was the first woman to perform at a White House Correspondents Dinner.

This oft-quoted comment is absolutely true: "It's impossible to attend a Paula Poundstone performance without marveling at her ability to interact spontaneously with audience members, who leave her live shows often complaining that their cheeks hurt from laughter."

Lavender was able to catch up with Poundstone for a fleeting moment to ask how she comes up with her comedy routines, and she replied, "I don't know that I'll be of much help here, but I'll give it a try. I don't exactly know how material comes to me. Sometimes, I carry around a notebook, because I think of so much stuff, I can't keep track of it, and other times, I just don't have a thought in my head. Sometimes, I don't so much write as I do take notes. For the last couple of years, I've been an avid tweeter. I have some online news sites that I check a few times a day, and I listen to public radio whenever I can."

Like her audience, Poundstone is subject to quotidian constraints, as she shared, "I have three kids, sixteen cats, a German Shepherd-mix dog, a bearded dragon lizard, a lop-eared bunny. The truth is, though, my ability to keep up on what's going on in the world is directly, and oppositely, proportional to how challenging my family life is on any given day. For example, my son has been out of school for weeks, so it's only through much extra effort that I've been able to glean that Obama is President, and Egypt is not currently a great vacation destination."

It doesn't happen often, so catch the Halley's Comet of Comedy on a stage near you.

E.B. BOATNER

Paula Poundstone
Feb. 28, 7:30 PM
Guthrie Theater
818 S. 2nd Ave, Mpls.
(612) 377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org



Fierce Love Cast. Photos by Sophia Hantzes

TONGUES UNTIED REPRISES *FIERCE LOVE* FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Marlon Riggs's *Tongues Untied*, a groundbreaking 1989 documentary of black gay life, is the inspiration for two different but connected phenomenas. At the University of Minnesota, Jason Jackson and Cortez Riley cofounded and cofacilitate Tongues Untied, a group that took its name from Riggs's film, to support queer people of color. It will present *Fierce Love*, a classic showcase of hilarious and touching vignettes and stories by the legendary Pomo Afro Homos, comic actors whose vision was impacted by Riggs's documentary.

Tongues Untied open discussion often leads to what Riley says are "issues of tokenism, exoticism, and the pressure to choose between racial or sexual identities. Through this, we learn how to ar-

A generation ago, in the early 1990s, the creators of *Fierce Love*, the Pomo Afro Homos trio of Djola Branner, Brian Freeman, and Eric Gupta, was derided by Republican US Senator Jesse Helms's campaign against publicly-funded queer-themed art.

ticulate and combat racism and homophobia within our communities. Having a room filled with racial minorities, I find that we have more in common with each other than not. The name Tongues Untied represents the idea that we can verbally affirm our existence in both our racial and LGBT communities."

Jackson, who calls the documentary "revolutionary," observes, "Riggs and his colleagues officially untied their tongues surrounding issues pertaining to the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, and sexuality. They used their bodies to assert that black and gay was and is beautiful, which had never been done in mainstream America. They discussed police brutality, sex, and the general ontology of black gay men. Despite this documentary only focusing on black gay men, we interpreted *Tongues Untied* as asserting that being an LGBTQ person of color is something positive and beautiful. As such, Tongues Untied is now a reality."

To celebrate Black History Month, Tongues Untied is producing *Fierce Love*, in which Jackson and Riley are acting.

A generation ago, in the early 1990s, the creators of *Fierce Love*, the Pomo Afro Homos trio of Djola Branner, Brian Freeman, and Eric Gupta, was adored by progressive audiences, but derided by Republican US Senator Jesse Helms's campaign against publicly-funded queer-themed art. The group played the Walker Art Center to full houses. Branner has said that they began as a furthering of the conversation begun by *Tongues Untied*.

Harry Waters Jr., director of the *Tongues Untied* production of *Fierce Love*, was germinal to black and queer performance on the national scene in the early 1990s, when he played the original Belize in the Broadway staging of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*.

Last year, Waters directed a revival of *Fierce Love* that was named Best Revival in my December 16, 2010, "On the Townsend" column, and for which he also was named Best Director. A driving reason was the staging's ingenious recreation of a not-too-distant but still-very-different period in time and culture. Yet his cast beautifully blended in current concepts like 21st-Century-Hip Hop. Waters had to educate his young actors about what are now subterranean and archaic practices, like the use of different-colored bandanas as a coded signal for the kind of sex a gay or bi man was into.

Some of last year's actors will be returning, and some are new. What struck me so viscerally last year was the vivid, polished results Waters got from young men with little or no acting experience. The performance was every bit as professional as something at the Penumbra, Guthrie, or Jungle theaters.

When I asked Waters how he achieved such results, he responded, "I believe in the power of telling your own story, and in finding the context of being able to show that in a very honest and truthful way, but also in a very theatrical way. That then makes a connection to a larger part of the community."

Waters's actors likely will tell you they have a direct empathic connection to their roles. Though GLBT rights have progressed notably over the past two decades, homophobia still is entrenched in both Caucasian and non-Caucasian communities.

Waters explains, "In one of the pieces in *Fierce Love*, titled 'Silently Into the Night,' a young man talks about finding his best friend in the hospital dying of AIDS, and then, the family comes and takes over the funeral. They don't respect any of the GLBT friends who were in his real life and lived experience. And there are so many young men now who have also experienced that with their families who have not acknowledged their lived lives. But they want to take over the celebration at a funeral, and disrespect or disremember who and what [the deceased] was, and what they actually did. And that's still going on today."



Fierce Love Director Harry Waters Jr. Photos by Sophia Hantzes

Much work and consciousness-raising remains to be done to solve the problem. By attending *Fierce Love,* and discovering what Tongues Untied has to offer, you can part of the ongoing solution. **JOHN TOWNSEND**

Fierce Love
Feb. 26, 7 PM
Rarig Hall Thrust Theater, 330 21st Ave. S., Univ. of Minn., Mpls.
(612) 625-4001
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=304465999953#!/event.php?eid=138202909573693>

Tongues Untied
Meets 1st Thu. Every Month, 4-6 PM
Appleby Hall, 128 Pleasant St. SE, Rm. 41, Univ. of Minn., Mpls.

BY JOHN TOWNSEND



Into The Woods. Photo by Vicki Madsen

Into The Woods • Through Feb. 13 • Bloomington Theatre and Arts Center • 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington • (952) 563-8575 • www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org

Stephen Sondheim and Joseph Lapine's inventive musical mixes fairy-tale icons Rapunzel, Cinderella, and Jack of Beanstalk into an oddly charming narrative where they intermingle, and learn that dark ramifications can ensue when dreams come true.

Director Joe Chvala splendidly balances brisk comic timing with moments of numinous profundity. Ed Gleeman's costumes, Wu Chen Khoo's lighting, Robin McIntyre's set, and Jesse Carlson's props are magical. Anita Ruth's crackling music direction serves a great cast led by Karen Weber as a proverbial "wicked witch."

Little Eyes
Through Feb. 20
Guthrie Theater
818 S. 2nd St., Mpls.
(612) 377-2224
www.guthrietheater.org

The Guthrie is known for producing historically-prominent plays, but it also features contemporary work from strong local theater troupes. Minneapolis's Workhaus Collective, known for its development of provocative plays, currently weighs in with Minnesota playwright Cory Hinkle's new play, *Little Eyes*.

Hinkle says, "*Little Eyes* is about how we cling to lies, because it's easier to take than dealing with the truth. It's also about how to raise a child and be a parent today. All of these ideas are dealt with in a darkly funny way."

Drakul
Through Feb. 26
Red Eye Theater
15 W. 14th St., Mpls.
(612) 375-0300
www.walkingshadowcompany.org

Playwright John Heimbuch has reimagined *Dracula*, in his words, "through the lens of late Victorian culture. It explores how societal obligations can cause us to close ourselves off from our true desires by using vampires as a metaphor for destructive desire. As Bram Stoker's novel [1897] is told through the letters and journals of the characters, it seems likely that these records are not the most reliable source, especially when the characters must also struggle to preserve their reputations. Drakul [Charles Hubbell] hypothesizes that the book *Dracula* has been published in the world of the characters, causing the survivors to discover the numerous lies and deceits they perpetrated while trying to defeat the vampire. By putting the characters' personal desires at the forefront of the story, it helps heighten those times when their morality and sexual desires come into direct conflict with their survival."



Drakul. Photo by Elise Rosen



Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks. Photo Courtesy of Ballet of the Dolls

Leave
Through Feb. 26
Sabes Jewish Community Ctr.
4330 Cedar Lake Rd., St. Louis Park
(612) 396-2025
www.urbansamurai.org

Matthew Everett's acclaimed powerful drama about homophobia and the military has been expanded for Urban Samurai. We now see Seth (Ryan Henderson),

the Marine, before he went to boot camp and got shipped out, then had to deal with the strain Don't Ask, Don't Tell would put on his husband, Nicholas (Jack Kloppenborg).

Everett explains, "The repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell has been incorporated into the play's closing minutes. The change has come too late for some, but the remaining characters can look forward to the possibility of a better, freer life."

Moreover, the discussion about why gays should serve a country that refuses to recognize their value as people digs deeper in this new version in a scene between Seth and former soldier Tyson (Derek Ewing).

Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks
Through Feb. 27
Ritz Theater
345 13th Ave. NE, Mpls.
(612) 396-2025
www.ritzdolls.com

Zany Ballet of the Dolls is melding two classic fairy tales.

Choreographer Myron Johnson shares, "In our version, the story begins with 'Red' [Heather Cadigan] dancing her way through the forest with her basket for Grandma when she comes upon a pile of leaves. When she clears away the vines, she discovers a small golden-haired girl, 'Goldy' [Lisa Conlin], locked up in a cage. Goldy sweetly begs for Red to let her out, and when she agrees, promptly steals her basket, and run off into the woods. Red has no choice but to chase after her."

Grant Whittaker dances across gender borders as Grandma and Momma Bear.

Hair
Mar. 1-6
Orpheum Theatre
910 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.
(800) 859-7469
www.hennepintheatretrust.org

This isn't just any national tour revamp of the 1960s tribal rock musical. It took New York by storm just two years ago, winning the Tony for Best Revival. Accused in the past of didacticism, excessive idealism, and simplistic plot structure that nods too heavily to guerilla street theater, *Hair*, by its longevity, proves that its peace and love message is unstoppable. Today, the show is hauntingly prescient in its depiction of how war impacts a nation at home, not just the killing fields abroad. The Public Theater, which offers this revival, also produced *Hair* in 1967. Groovy karma, man! ■



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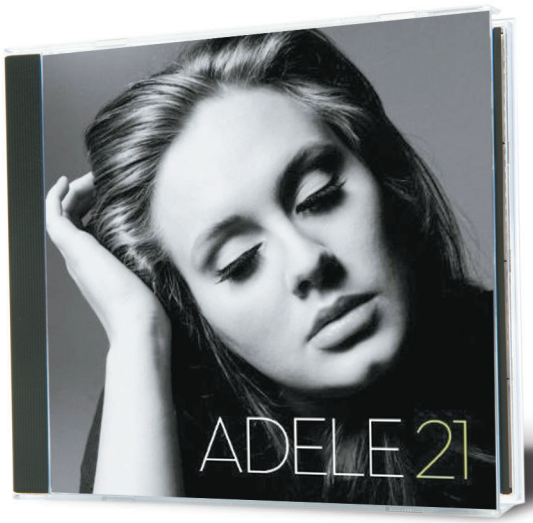
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BY ED HUYCK



21
ADELE

Adele fights against the sophomore slump—and the dreaded "Best New Artist" Grammy—with a smoldering collection of tunes that belies her age (despite the title, she is actually 22). These songs look at love—finding it, losing it, fighting against it—through the mind of a young woman just crossing over from her teenage years. It means a lot of yearning here that sometimes doesn't feel as sophisticated as the music or the delivery, but she does showcase musical maturity beyond her years. Opening '"kiss-off" track "Rolling in the Deep" sets the mood well, as a dark, country-style song provides a perfect backdrop for Adele's strong, clear (oh so nice to hear a song without electronic treatment) voice. At times, the album slips a bit too far into the mellow, unleashing a string of sound-alike slow-tempo numbers around the middle. And the bluesy riff on The Cure's "Lovesong" probably should have been left as a B-side.



Content
GANG OF FOUR

As post-punk pioneers, Gang of Four fused angry guitars with heavy beats, essentially setting the stage—for good and bad—for the likes of Bloc Party and Franz Ferdinand two decades later. So, it's no surprise that the band would want to get back into the action. *Content* features some of the thrills that marked early classics like "Anthrax," "At Home He Feels Like a Tourist," and "Damaged Goods." But on the whole, it feels much more like their later, less-realized, albums, such as 1995's *Shinkwrapped*. Some good stuff is here, especially on the front half, where songs like "Who Am I" and "You'll Never Pay for the Farm" bring out skittering guitars, bouncing bass lines, and Jon King's acerbic vocals. Still, it doesn't take long for the album—like the latest release from post-punk contemporaries Wire—to wear out its welcome, relying too much on music that lacks Gang of Four's original fire and wit.



The King is Dead
THE DECEMBERISTS

After the polarizing epic *The Hazards of Love*, the Decemberists return to earth with a simpler, country-fied release. The approach has led to commercial success—a Number 1 album! More importantly, it makes for really satisfying listening. While Colin Meloy's tangled storytelling has given way to more straightforward songs, the band's musical approach has tightened. The tinges of country are not far from the rocking folk they always have employed. Helping the vibe are a pair of ringer guests—singer Gillian Welch and R.E.M. guitarist Peter Buck—who lend their talents to the first single, "Down by the Water" (alas, not the P.J. Harvey tune, but a good song nonetheless). Welch's world-weary backing vocals add depth, while Buck's guitar evokes the classic mid-'80s sound of his longtime band. Never outstaying its welcome, *The King is Dead* is perfect music for late-night driving on a long road trip.



Outside
TAPES 'N TAPES

Oh, the dangers of being a buzz band! These locals set the indie world abuzz with their 2006 debut *The Loon*, but found diminishing returns as the years went on. Their third album, *Outside*, probably isn't going to change that perception. Tapes 'n Tapes strives to find the easy-sounding indie-rock of their debut, but often come off as if they are trying way too hard. The band's bouncy indie-pop certainly can be appealing, and some moments evoke their debut, such as the driving "Nightfall" or "Desert Plane," which give the album a strong middle. But on tunes like Vampire Weekend sound-alike "One in the World" or the dry swing of "Hidee Ho," the album really stumbles by being too eclectic for its own good. *Outside* is not a terrible album by any stretch of the imagination, but just is missing the fire to make it rise above the current crop of similar-sounding releases. ■

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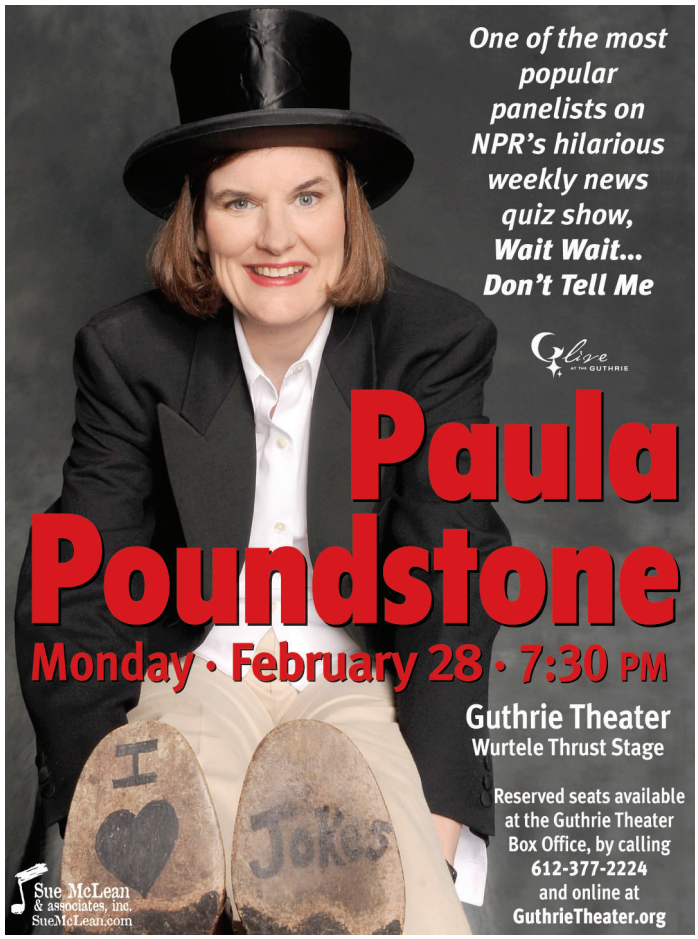
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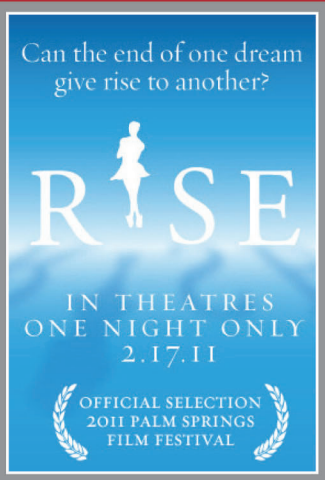
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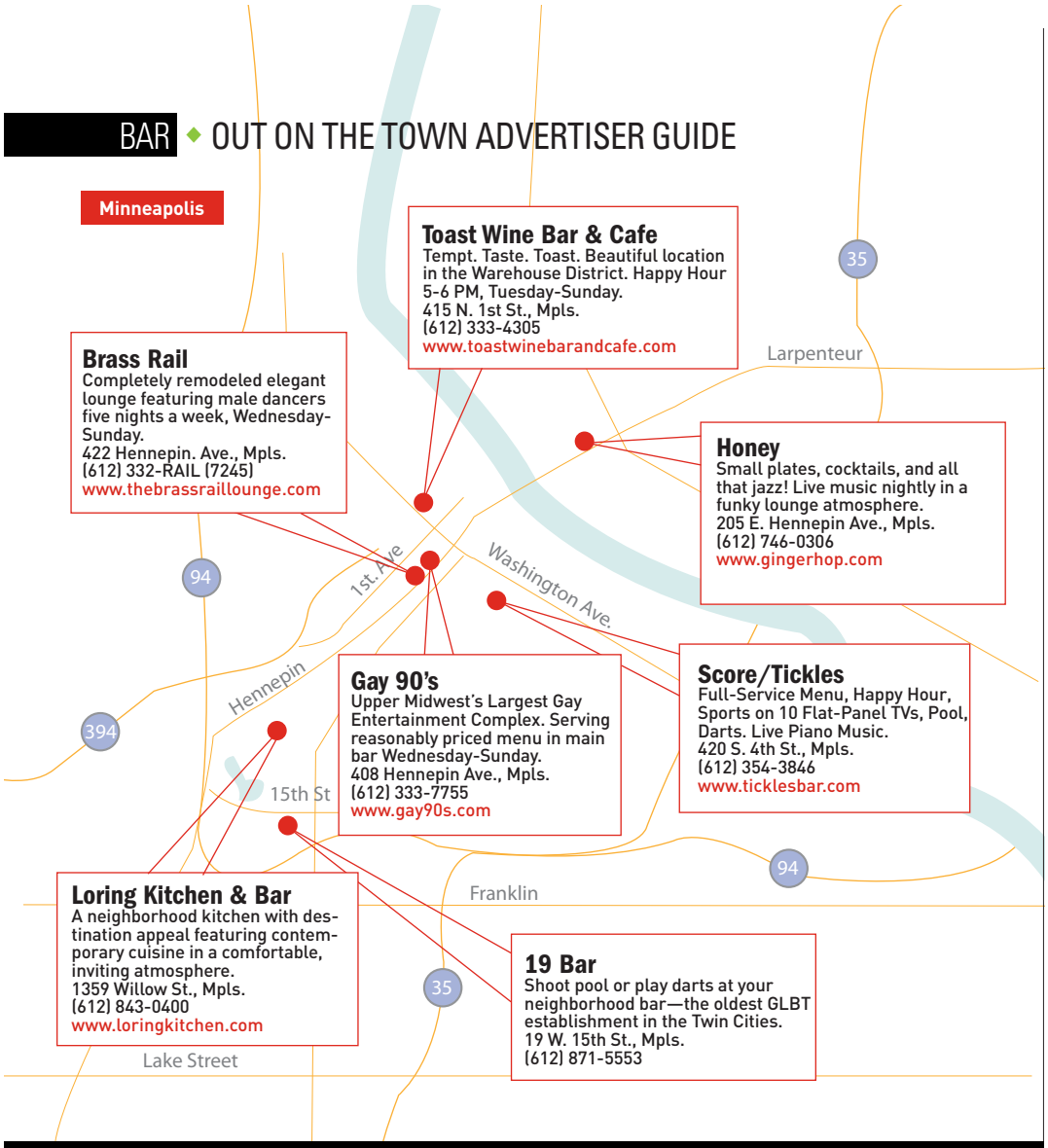
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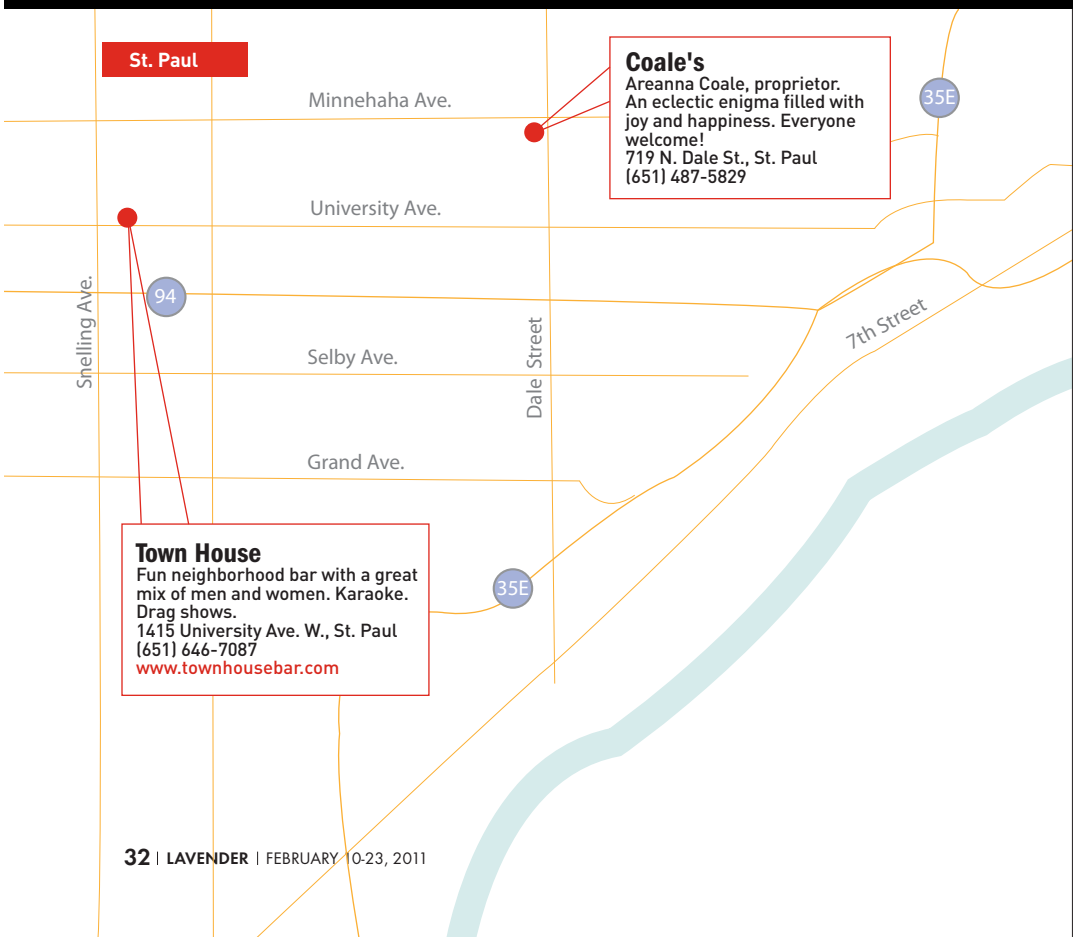
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BAR CALENDAR

For club addresses, phone numbers, and websites, see "Out on the Town Advertiser Guide" on page 32. For events not at bars, see <LavenderMagazine.com/calendar>.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

YOLO
9 PM. Town House.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

TNT Show
9 PM. Town House.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Foam Party
Dance Annex. Gay 90's.
Dragged Out
9:30 PM. Town House.

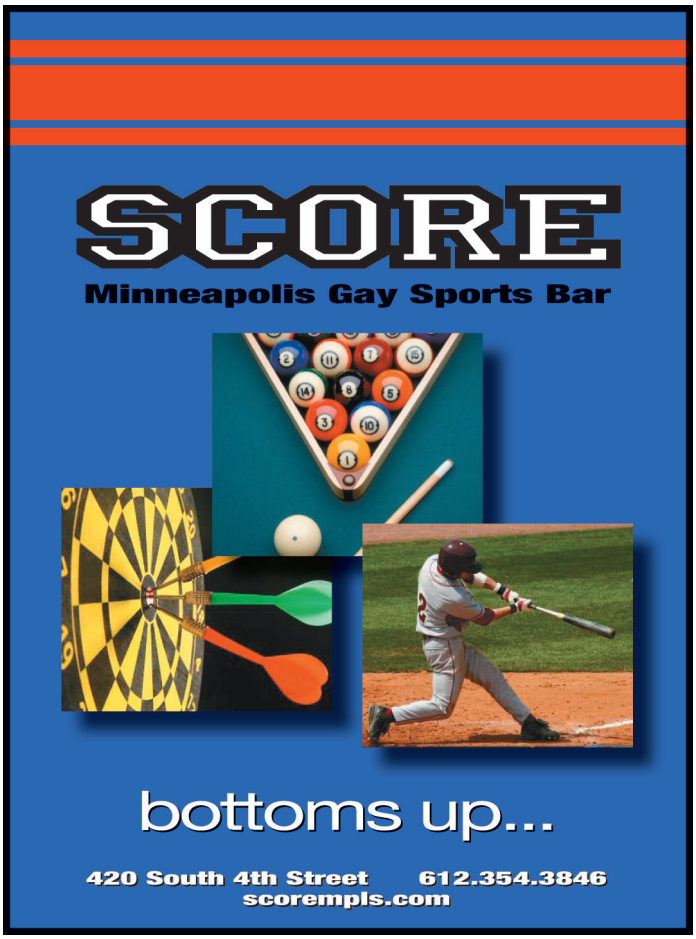
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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4 PM. 19 Bar.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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Elegance
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1972 WOMYN'S WINTER DANCE *FERTILE ASHES* FUNDRAISER

Pam Colby a local videographer and public TV producer, is working on an important documentary about Twin Cities lesbian history. *Fertile Ashes: Because Some Stories Need To Be Told* is a 30-minute narrative drama to be filmed locally this summer. Set in the summer of 1972, it's the story of a small bar, Joey's Places, which offers refuge and hope to a struggling community of lesbians and queer people. On January 28, Colby hosted 1972 Womyn's Winter Dance, a kickoff fundraiser for the film, at the James Ballentine VFW Post in Minneapolis. The event theme derived from the historic A Woman's Coffeehouse, a lesbian hangout in Minneapolis that flourished in the 1970s and 1980s. For more information, visit <http://www.fertileashes.com/>.

Photos by Sophia Hantzes












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The Sasha is *so* good, it robs your brain of words—or at least ones that are admissible in print. A newer item on the menu, it already has become a best-seller.

CECIL'S DELICATESSEN

CATERS TO CHANGING NEEDS OF COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS

If you read our January 27 issue, you know the last restaurant I featured in my column was Mort's Delicatessen. The scheduling wasn't exactly intentional, but to be honest, I wasn't unhappy about it either, because the cuisine of my childhood remains my favorite guilty pleasure—well, perhaps my second-favorite guilty pleasure. Mort's and Cecil's Delicatessen are very different restaurants, so I will resist the impulse to compare the two. If you can find poetry in the subtle earthiness of a root vegetable, and if you believe that hot pastrami can thaw the coldest heart, you will find contentment within the walls of either establishment.

The very best cuisines in the world borrowed techniques and ingredients from multiple ethnic influences, perfected them, and incorporated them into their own traditions. Jewish kitchens were influenced by Greek, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Middle Eastern cooking techniques. The result is an intensely-flavorful yet mild comfort food that seems to please everyone. ↦

Jamie serving food. Photos by Hubert Bonnet



Reuben and Sasha sandwiches with Raspberry Phosphate.

We also grabbed a few take-home deli treats called hamantashen—delicate, triangular filled cookies.

To illustrate, Cecil's is in St. Paul's Highland Park—a fairly Catholic neighborhood. As our server happily informed us, "We wait on more priests than rabbis."

Jewish culture is intertwined with its food. In my family, dieters often drew the vocal disdain of their passionate, round-hipped hosts. However, Cecil's wouldn't have been in business for 60 years without catering to the changing needs of its community—even dieters.

So, the Ever Popular Cecil's Salad ($7.79) makes for a very satisfying meal, with fresh lettuce and diced tomatoes, along with chopped deli meats, turkey, and hard-boiled egg.

Sweet and Sour Cabbage Borscht ($3.65 cup/$4.59 bowl) is another heart-healthy option. If you never have had it, I highly recommend it. Borscht has a truly awful name, and every now and then—depending on how prepared—looks *exactly* like it sounds. However, this soup is bewitchingly-tangy and potent. The flavor builds with each hot spoonful. The smell alone is tantalizing beyond belief. If the Sirens had made a big pot of borscht instead of spending their time singing, they would have had poor Odysseus and his crew at their mercy. It's the sexiest soup you ever have had…if you just can get over the name.

The sandwich selection at Cecil's is vast, and one easily could get lost in it. We tried three sandwiches, which were accom- ↦

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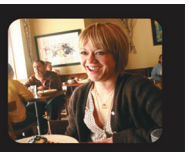
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The Ever Popular Cecil's Salad

panied by a side of mustardy potato salad and a very crisp lightly-dressed cole slaw.

The Reuben ($9.39) is made on very dark, soft rye (it helps that Cecil's bakes its own bread), and the sauerkraut is allowed a refreshing prominence.

The Sasha ($9.19), consisting of hot pastrami and Swiss cheese, topped with an over-medium egg and a zesty sauce, on grilled caraway rye, is *so* good, it robs your brain of words—or at least ones that are admissible in print. A newer item on the menu, it already has become a best-seller. Our server warned us that it would be "a little sloppy" because of the egg—it was, and we didn't mind in the least.

The Attazoy ($8.79)—cold roast beef, red onion, lettuce, and spicy dressing—is a bit more buttoned up, and perfect for a boxed lunch.

With our sandwiches, we sipped a Chocolate Egg Cream ($1.95)—the egg is in name only—and a Raspberry Phosphate ($1.95). If you haven't had an old-fashioned soda, you really should make a point of trying one. It isn't the same as its overly-syrupy canned cousin, but is lighter and more refreshing.

To further tempt your sweet tooth, I highly recommend Blintzes ($8.39)—a quartet of cream cheese crepes served with jam and sour cream. Proper blintzes? Here? Absolutely! The kitchen staff members at Cecil's didn't fly in from Austria—in fact, they're Hispanic and Indian—but they have been trained so well on these old family recipes that they're probably better at rolling a matzo ball than my own mother.



Famous Cecil's Hamantashen Cookies.

We also grabbed a few take-home deli treats called hamantashen—delicate, triangular filled cookies traditionally made during Purim.

Something about Jewish food seems to heal what's ailing you. My dining partner had been going through a grieving process, and eating was difficult these past few weeks. However, I couldn't help noticing that in addition to finishing the Sasha, she did quite a respectable job with the other sandwiches and the borscht before very quietly polishing off her half of our shared blintz. By the time the hamantashen came out, she opened the box lustfully, suggesting that instead of splitting up our varied selection, we break each in half to taste them all at our respective leisure.

I'm not saying a little hot pastrami fixes everything in just one day. But over the course of a few weeks, who knows? Cecil's delivers throughout the greater metro area, so I'll make sure she has the number. **HEIDI FELLER**

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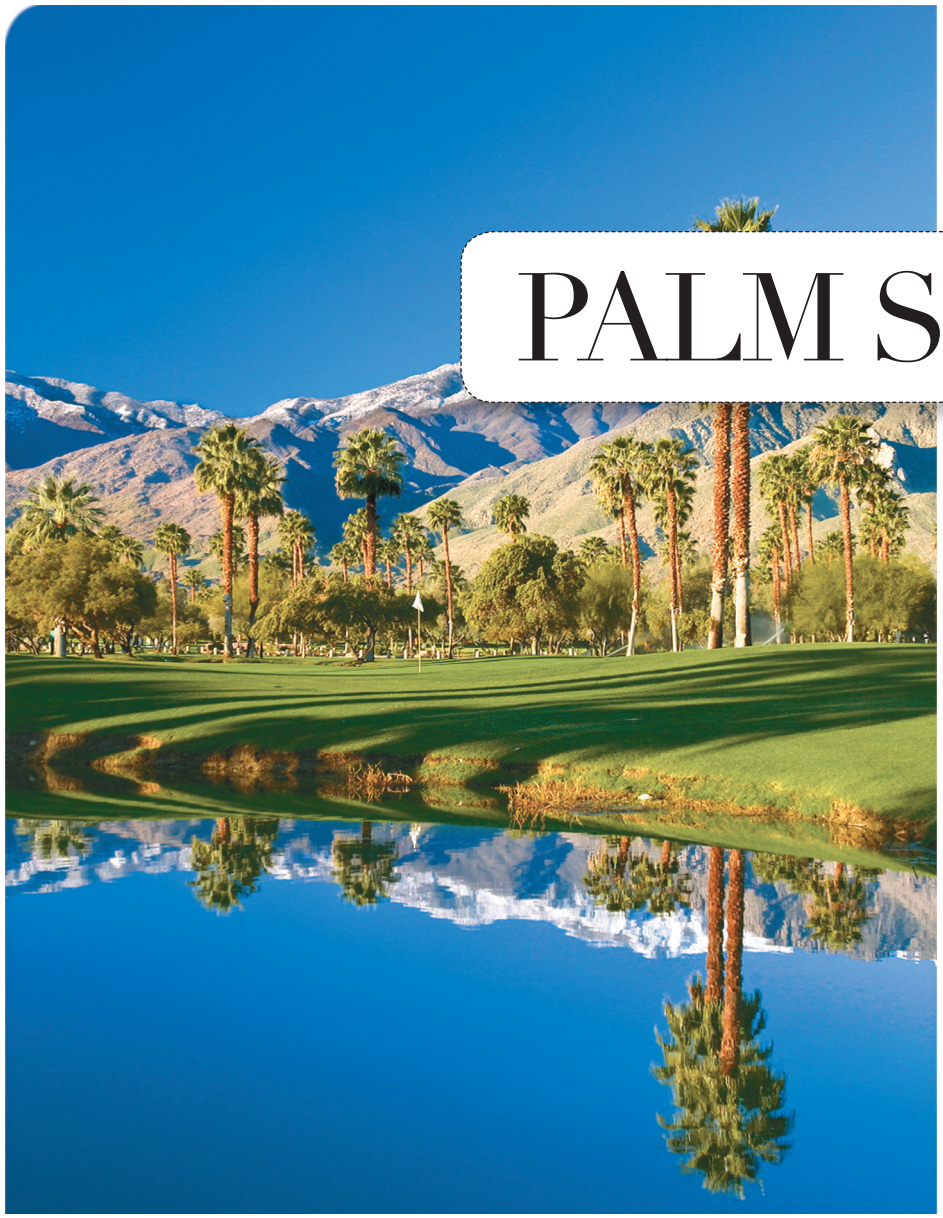
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PALM SPRINGS



(Above) Mesquite. (Below) Spa Resort Casino. Photos Courtesy of Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism.

Zosa, anchoring Downtown, abuts the street where the gayest of gay bars bloom.

Why the heck would anybody want to come here, and miss out on a Minnesota winter? Well, try 350 days of blinding sunshine, spotlighting a palm-studded oasis. Hiking mountain trails. Jeep cruising through sandstone canyons. Gallivanting past hip enclaves of modern art and a mecca of Mid-century Modern houses, once home to bold-name movie stars. Glam boutique hotels and bistros at penny-pinching prices. An airport 10 minutes from Downtown. Oh, and a gay scene that just doesn't end. (Rumor has it that a hetero hunk once was spotted in Palm Springs, but that's probably just idle talk.)

Because Palm Springs has so much to offer, you may be hard-pressed to find time to lounge by the pool.

Hollywood stars flocked here in the nifty '50s to chill out under the jagged canopy of mountains that each day brightens from mushroom to saffron, then fades to sunsets of sky-blue pink. Streets are named for former residents: Gene Autry, Bob Hope, Dinah Shore, Howard Hughes, Jack Benny, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Clark Gable, Liz Taylor, Elvis, and Liberace. Celeb sightings were as common as cactus.

Today, you can tour their homes. Even better: Sign on for style-o-phile Robert Im-



Cody House.

BECAUSE PALM SPRINGS HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER, YOU MAY BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND TIME TO LOUNGE BY THE POOL.

ber's guidance—visit <psmoderntours@aol.com>—through the richest cache of Midcentury Modern buildings in the entire country, starting with "the architect's architect" Albert Frey's 1965 gas station, now the Tourist Center, with its iconic flat roof thrusting toward the highway. "The entire city is a living museum of architecture," Imber swoons with contagious passion. It's constructed of brawny industrial materials—steel, glass, concrete—in muted desert tones. The formula is simple: garage>breezeway>window>wall, a formula that soon swept America—far more Bauhaus than Beaver Cleaver.

Tour the iconic Mid Mod-built Art Museum of 1970—a bold, muscular silhouette that, inside, houses an equally robust modern collection that sprints from Picasso to Warhol, with the Henry Moores and Deborah Butterfields you'll recognize from the Walker's Sculpture Garden, plus a shimmering, eat-your-heart-out collection of Chihuly glass (break it—it's yours). You'll find actual affordable Mid Mod home furnishings—antiques and repros—in the Uptown Design District, crowded with tony cafés like Trio, all glowing orange to flatter the gay blades dining on beet salad, salmon with pomegranate-chili sauce, and even good ol' Yankee pot roast.

Oh, you're missing the snow already? No problemo, masochists. A rotating ride on the Aeriual Tramway vaults you 8,516 feet skyward through mountain chasms veiled in powdery drifts, to alight at a station from which spread 54 miles of hiking trails (or, in my case, lunch with a primo view).

Another 10-minute sprint from Downtown—most hotels provide bikes—offers a more temperate trek through Indian Canyons, solo, or led by a tribal ranger such as Rocky Toyama, who distills the story of the Agua Caliente Cahuilla tribe who lived here before recorded history. Guiding us past boulders big as Volkswagens, past gushing streams and stands of California Fan Palms—the only native palm—he introduced us to the pharmacy of the Indians: mesquite to desert mistletoe, and a litany of cacti. Hummingbirds fluttered above signs warning of rattlesnakes (maybe save the flip-flops for another day).

Desert Adventures specializes in jeep tours along the famed San Andreas Fault. (Feeling lucky? The next big quake is overdue.) Eric, our driver/guru, coached us in the workings of the earth's tectonic plates that meet here, wresting sandstone into deep canyons ringing palm-fringed oases and trickling streams. He schooled us in the ecolife of its animals (more rattlesnakes) and plants (more mesquite)—a don't-miss experience.

If it leaves your weary body wishing for the healing secrets of the ancients, sign on for the signature Taking of the Waters program at Downtown's Spa Resort Casino, where steam, sauna, and eucalyptus aroma treatments are followed by soaks in private, sunken tubs filled by the same soothing mineral-water spring that healed the Agua Calientes in times past.

If it's Thursday evening, it's time for the weekly Villagefest, a stroll among booths of crafts vendors and food stalls to the beat of live music. Better yet: Dine first at ↦

Johannes, a quietly-elegant café offering a classic Wiener schnitzel or avant duck breast with roasted pears, backed by an award-winning wine list.

Or nearby Zini Café Med, whose forte is small plates, tapas-style. It's right next door to a perennial favorite, the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, in its 20th season of showcasing Broadway revue numbers with a cast clad—just barely—in sequins and feathers, all former Broadway chorines and dance captains, now age 65 or better. Dick, at 81, doesn't let a triple bypass keep him off the boards.

Old Hollywood Elegance built this town, and a peek into its many boutique hotels spills the story. The Viceroy, wafting a '20s flavor in shiny white with black and lemon accents, housed Clark Gable back in the day. Today, it's Mylie Cyrus. Koraki, another romantic inn from the '20s—this time, with a Moroccan spin—won't name names. But the walls whisper.

Orbit is the exact opposite—its nine rooms offer a retro return to the Mid Mod '50s, with aqua kitchens, pink tiled baths, and faux-leopard chairs. Casa Cody—where Charlie Chaplin formerly performed—started as an adobe cabin occupied by a cousin of Buffalo Bill. Ace, my abode, is the last word in "glamping"—glamorous camping—with rooms styled as elegant safari tents.

Zosa, anchoring Downtown, abuts the street where the gayest of gay bars bloom. And the enclave called Warm Sands boasts 28 men's hotels—clothing optional, partying essential—ranging from Inndulgence, a '60s property appealing to the over-40 fellas, to Hacienda, high-end and gorgeous, and Desert Paradise, eclectic and full of funk.

Lunch heartily at Tyler's, with outdoor "drive-in"-style tables where burgers reign. Head to Las Casuelas for filling Mexican fare.

But for One Last Meal, make it Melvyn's—a throwback to the '20s glamour scene, where waiters still wear white jackets, and toss salads tableside. Melvyn Haber bought the place in 1975, and loves to tell a tale or two. Most sensuous woman guest? Dinah Shore. Most challenging? Frank Sinatra. "Scary. When he walked in, I walked out." Haber once tossed out an unrecognized Steve McQueen for not suiting up to Melvyn's dress code. The actor missed a great Cobb salad.

For information contact Palm Springs Visitors Center at 800-347-7746, or <www.VisitPalmSprings.com>. Request its GLBT map. **CARLA WALDEMAR**





(Above) Indian Canyon. (Below) Happy by the pool.

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White Shoal Light.

Wisconsin and Michigan Waterways

Text and photos by E.B. Boatner

It's not that Minnesota lacks water, but roam a bit farther afield to Wisconsin and Michigan to experience miles of shoreline and shoals of scenery—lighthouses, bridges, and sand. Acres and cubic yards of sand, in fact, stretch horizontally and vertically in Warren Dunes State Park in Sawyer, Michigan. All along the hundreds miles of potentially-ship-breaking rocky shores are myriad lighthouses—some monuments to their time, others still in service. Powered by oil lamps with wicks, original Fresnel lenses in seven sizes, by refraction of their circular prisms, projected a narrow, bright beam up to 16 miles and beyond. Tour romantic Door County, Wisconsin; Mackinac Island and the great Mackinac Bridge in Michigan, plus the surrounding area dotted with lighthouses and beacons; and Southern Michigan shores and beaches. When not dining, shopping, or biking local trails, launch forth into another world: the maritime realm of the Great Lakes majestic waterway getaways.



Mackinac Bridge, Michigan.





Grays Reef, near Mackinac Island, Michigan.



Eagle Bluff Lighthouse, Door County, Wisconsin.



Warren Dunes State Park, Sawyer, Michigan.

THE PLAYGROUND DIARIES

I'm waiting for the walls in my apartment to vanish, for my work clothes to turn into bedsheets, for my mother to call me in for supper. I'm waiting for the sandbox to reappear. I'm waiting to tell my mom what an enchanting world I've discovered.

I'll regale her with stories of grand palaces where hundreds of people dance in rainbows of flickering lights to music loud enough to get you in trouble. She will remind me that turning the lights on and off too fast will burn them out faster, and that loud music will hurt my ears. I'll argue with her that these lights are different—they do it by themselves—and that the music is supposed to be that loud. Duh.

There will be tales of magic medicine that makes you happy when you are sad, of places where strangers share bedrooms, of movies that show what strangers do in those bedrooms.

"The birthday parties are bigger there, Mom," I'll suggest kindly. "But no one ever has birthday cake. They like sparkly water instead."

They all think they're too fat. They don't clean up their messes when they make them. They go to bed too late. They yell a lot when they don't get their way. They cry. They all have secrets.

I'll be sure to tell her about the bullies I ran into. The ones who break promises they make. The ones who like to see you cry. If only they were real, she'd go take care of them.

They look like grown-ups, but they can't be. They look like *me*….

It's a game I've gotten pretty good at playing. It's a lot of playing



teacher's pet, and lots of keeping the monsters at bay. It doesn't always feel like a game, though. Most of the time is spent doing things you do in real life, like eating vegetables and brushing your teeth.

Of course, I won't tell Mom about everything that happened. Best to keep some things a secret—I wasn't exactly always nice, and she'd be disappointed to hear that her character dies pretty early on.

While we all wait to hear our names for supper, we just go on pretending. It must be pretend, right? Some of the things we do can only exist in imagination. No way would our moms let them happen in real life.

So, I'm waiting for this moment to share all these things with my mom when it strikes me that she wasn't there to protect me like she usually is. I don't get a Band-Aid for my scrapes and bruises anymore. I never saw her after…. But the characters always come back, right? It's like a cartoon. No one really dies.

It sinks in that maybe this isn't pretend anymore. Somehow, somewhere along the way, we stopped pretending. All the things we got in trouble for as a kid multiply by a thousand, and slap us all in the face.

Our parents had something after all when they punished us for misbehavior. They saw what would come of it. They lived it.

Maybe, then, all that pretending wasn't really about playing at all. It was about toughening us up.

On the playground, we learn to deal with bullies in a controlled environment. The teachers are there as guardrails until we suffice on our own. The friends we make there shape us into the men and women we one day will become. Any education is consequential.

Then, one day—quite suddenly—we return to the playground to find that the lines in the sand have grown into walls, that the jungle gym houses two cars, that the climber is the setting for memories to be made and lessons to be passed to our own.

Yes, the game is over. The training wheels are off. The birthday cakes are fattening. The bullies are bigger and badder. And if you want a Band-Aid, go get one your damn self.

Don't count the pretending out, though—it's still in full force. We funnel it now into innovation that defies imagination. Remember when it was called the Information Superhighway? Oh, and what the hell did we do without cell phones, Facebook, apps, iPads, 3D TV, or…? Well, you get the picture.

The need to go on pretending follows us into Botox treatments and tanning booths. It rides alongside us in our over-the-top cars and can't-afford-it lifestyles. It's in the pockets of our suit jackets when we give presentations and speeches.

Pretending keeps us silly. It gives us hope. It gives us…us.

We're still in the sandbox. We're still learning how to share and how to play nice.

We never really grow up. We just get better at pretending. **JUSTIN JONES**

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BUSINESS PROFILE

Kate Heffelfinger



Photo Courtesy of Kate Heffelfinger

More than 10 million Americans see a therapist every year, yet many would be ashamed to admit it. Perhaps this stigma is why some continue to live lives that could be happier, fuller, and more purposeful, instead of seeking the help they need.

In order to relieve such anxiety, Kate Heffelfinger, a Licensed Psychologist, makes her first session with a client as comfortable as possible.

Heffelfinger explains, "First of all, I tell them that they are very courageous for taking the step, and that therapy is just talking. I always offer a no-charge initial session. It gives people an opportunity to come and meet me, and see my space."

If other therapists have been unable to help, it doesn't mean all is lost. Psychologists have a wide variety of methods, so if one doesn't work out, it's worth it to try someone else.

Heffelfinger's approach includes looking at the past to see how it may have an impact on a client's current situation, and examines any thought distortions a client may have about himself or herself or his or her life. Both are fairly standard techniques.

In addition, Heffelfinger assists her clients with living a more mindful, purposeful life. She draws inspiration from her Buddhist philosophy and practices. However, it is not necessary for her clients to share her belief systems to work with her.

In Heffelfinger's words, "I work with people from all walks of life, and mindfulness is in practice in every working religion. I work with people from all different kinds of spiritual backgrounds, including no spiritual background. Mindfulness is a state of being in the present, and being with our feelings."

Unlike many therapists who decide to specialize, Heffelfinger prefers that her practice remain diverse.

Heffelfinger explains, "I work with gay and lesbian couples, and I work with heterosexual couples, as well as individuals, and a variety of ethnicities."

However, serving the LGBT community occupies a special place in Heffelfinger's heart: "The LGBT community deserves a wider variety of people who understand their needs and their relationships and their issues. I have a wide experience of relationships: two grown children as well as two grandchildren. And I think my personal experiences help make me a better therapist for anyone in the community, including the LGBT community." **HEIDI FELLNER**

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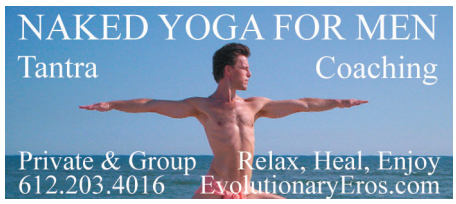




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HOME SERVICES







CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

10
Thursday, February

BILL W. & DR. BOB. This play is a remarkable and humorous story set around the lives—and, more importantly, the friendship—of Bill Wilson (Phil Callen) and Dr. Bob Smith (Terry Hempleman). Bill, a down-and-out stockbroker, and Bob, a surgeon from Ohio, were both alcoholics who, through a surprising series of events, met, and formed the world-changing friendship responsible for the creation of Alcoholics Anonymous. A universal story of the dangers of isolation, and the healing powers of good connections, the play returns with its original cast for its second run at Illusion Theater. Through Mar. 13. Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 339-4944. <www.illusiontheater.org>.

11
Friday, February

THE BALCONY. nimbus christens its new permanent home with a production of Jean Genet's *The Balcony*, considered one of the colorful and controversial French dramatist's masterworks. It's set in an exclusive brothel at the center of a revolution that threatens the established regime. As the situation outside becomes more volatile, a plan is formulated to reestablish the status quo using the trappings of authority from the brothel's studios. The patrons' fantasies are fulfilled as they appear in public, posing as the figures of authority, while the revolution threatens to overwhelm them. Through Mar. 6. nimbus, 1517 Central Ave. NE, Ste. 300, Mpls. (612) 548-1379. <www.nimbustheatre.com>.

DOUBT, A PARABLE. Can you get at the truth when it is so colored by our lenses of experience? Ten Thousand Things explores this central question with *Doubt, A Parable*, in which Peter Rothstein guest-directs Sally Wingert and Kris Nelson in this fiery battle between a nun and a priest over the suspicion of sexual abuse of a child. Through Mar 6. Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S., Mpls. <www.tenthousandthings.org>.

LEAVE. Urban Samurai Productions presents world premiere of *Leave*. Focusing on the emotional fallout from the U.S. military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy barring gay and lesbian personnel from serving their country openly, the play straddles this time of before and after the recent repeal of the policy, and the lingering effects of enforced secrecy and lies on relationships both old and new. It follows a young Marine serving during wartime, his civilian husband back home, and the people in their lives who must help them deal with the emotional strain of hiding their relationship. Through Feb. 26. Sabes Jewish Community Center, 4330 Cedar Lake Rd. S., Mpls. <www.urbansamurai.org> or <www.sabesjcc.org>.



Ring Round The Moon.
Photo Copyright of Act One, Too, Ltd.

RING ROUND THE MOON. Theatre in the Round Players presents the classic romantic farce *Ring Round the Moon,* by Jean Anouilh (translated by Christopher Fry) in weekend performances through March 6. A grand ball is the setting for an enchanted evening of innocent young lovers, mistaken identities, scheming sophisticates, and identical twin brothers. It is French playwright Anouilh's most-produced work in this country, a fairy-tale atmosphere with a smart satirical bite, funny and utterly charming. Leah Cooper directs a cast of 12, including Nicholas Leeman as twin brothers Hugo and Frederick, Maggie Bearmon Pistner as Madame Desmortes, Rachel Weber as Diana, and Lindsay Marcy as Isabelle. Sets are designed by Andrea Heilman and Kate Elise, costumes by Sarah French, and lighting by Peter Mitchell. Audience discussion with Cooper and members of the company will follow the matinee performance on Feb. 20. (612) 333-3010. <www.TheatreintheRound.org>.

VAMPIRE LESBIANS OF SODOM. Continuing its tradition of presenting the works of playwright Charles Busch, Brazen Theatre Company stages the long-running New York hit about a pair of vampiresses who meet in ancient Sodom, and continue their bloodsucking rivalry through 2,000 years, from the old days of Sodom to the silent movie era of Hollywood to contemporary Las Vegas. 11 PM. Through Feb. 26. Lowry Lab Theatre, 350 St. Peter St., St. Paul. <www.brazentheatre.org>.

12
Saturday, February

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON. This Valentine's dinner in three acts is a benefit for Theater Latté Da, the Twin Cities musical theater company. Cocktail reception, silent auction, and games at 6:30 PM. Dinner seating, music, and merriment at 7:30 PM. The Metropolitan Ballroom, 5418 Wayzata Blvd., Golden Valley. (612) 339-3003. <www.latteda.org>.

18
Friday, February

AGNES UNDER THE BIG TOP. Mixed Blood Theatre presents the world premiere of *Agnes Under the Big Top,* Aditi Brennan Kapil's funny and powerful new work that imagines the intersecting lives of immigrants in today's America. Kapil also directs this magical adventure. Under the figurative Big Top, and propelled by the rhythms of a subway train, five newcomers find and redefine themselves in their new land: Agnes, a Liberian homecare worker employed by bedridden Ella; an itinerant transit busker; a Bulgarian ringmaster and his wife; and an Indian call center escapee. Combining a gray subterranean world with music, clowning, and unexpected junctions, this play follows the characters' journeys, as they search for beauty amid the chaos of migration. Through Mar. 6. Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. 4th St., Mpls. (612) 338-6131. <www.mixedbloodtheatre.com>.

19
Saturday, February

CRUISE TO PARADISE. Dance away your winter blues, or sit back and relax, as the Minnesota Freedom Band presents its *Cruise to Paradise* concert, featuring Big Band standards from Glenn Miller, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, and Richard Rodgers. 7 PM. Ft. Snelling Club, 89 Ft. Snelling, St. Paul. (612) 360-4031. <www.mnfreedomband.org>.

ONGOING



Shirley Valentine. Photo by Donna Kelly

SHIRLEY VALENTINE. At the age of 42, Shirley Valentine's marriage and life are in a rut. Her world is one of kitchens, cooking, and faded dreams. She longs to "drink a glass of wine in the country where grapes are grown," so when a friend invites her on holiday to Greece, she packs her bag without a second thought, ditching the drudgery of housework in hopes of adventure and love. Bain Boehlke directs Cheryl Willis, who hails from Liverpool, England, in the title role. This award-winning, one-woman show is a witty, heartfelt comedy about breaking free, living life, and starting over. Through Mar. 20. Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 822-7063. <www.jungletheater.com>.

For additional calendar events, visit <www.LavenderMagazine.com>.

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Spectator Sports
A Survival Guide

It's a beautiful Sunday afternoon, but you find yourself locked in a cramped, dank, semifinished basement, the only light glaring from a ginormous flat-screened television whose very name—plasma—suggests it's feeding a terrifying life force to the mass of pale-faced women gathered before it.

Their zombie-like trance is broken only occasionally by screams of anguish and shouts of maniacal joy, along with the guttural belching generally accompanying the drinking of too many light beers.

Yes, ladies, it's Game Day. What type of game? Who cares? They're all the same. A bunch of large creatures crash into each other for several interminable hours until finally, mercifully, it's over.

Your girlfriend, who has paid zero attention to you all afternoon, suddenly is at your side, expecting either comfort or a high-five.

You're not sure which, because for the past four hours, you quietly have been reading a good book, instead of watching the game, blissfully unaware of what the women surrounding you are cheering or crying about.

So, my friends, we come to the central question of this article: What's a girl to do when she loves women, but has no interest in sports?

We are a small but highly-disruptive minority. At every Super Bowl party, you'll find us nattering on about which team's mascot is cuter. We're the girls who click off the television in the last seconds of The Final Four (whatever the hell that is), and demand to be taken to a foreign film. We know every detail of Tiger Woods's messy private life, and absolutely nothing about his golf swing.

At one time early in my career as a lesbian, I had high hopes that we-who-hate-sports could coexist peacefully with the rest of the community. This was before I suggested to a bar full of anxious, pregame sports-dykes that we skip watching the stress-inducing NBA championship, and sing show tunes instead. I barely escaped with my life.

So, in an attempt to prevent future near-death experiences, I'm offering a few tips on how to feign interest in any sporting event:

• Pick a favorite team for each major sport. Choose by uniform color, hometown—whatever. I always select the least-popular teams, because I feel they need me more.

• Once you've chosen your team, do not waver in your support, no matter how vigorously your girlfriend tries to bully you into switching your allegiance to her team. Blind, stupid loyalty to a team that in no way reciprocates your feelings is a true hallmark of a sports fan.

• Get irrationally excited when an umpire takes any type of action. Wave your hands around, and use the most powerful curse words in your repertoire. Apparently, everyone hates umpires, and thinks that they always rule unfairly against their team.

• Liberally sprinkle the following exclamations into your game-day conversations: "Unbelievable!"; "Come *on*!"; "Run, you idiot!" It doesn't matter when you use them. Someone in the room will agree with you.

• When your team wins, gloat. Dancing a little jig is acceptable. It is also the perfect opportunity to grope anyone in the room who strikes your fancy, and pass it off as victory-induced psychosis.

• When your team loses, sulk. Insist that someone take you into a bedroom, and make beautiful love to you to help you recover from the defeat. Surprisingly, someone always will take you up on it, because she needs comfort, too.

That, in a nutshell, is why it's worth putting down the book, and watching the game. Win or lose, ample opportunity always presents itself for a sexual payoff.

Then, to quote a popular sports cliché: "It's all over but the shouting!" **JENNIFER PARELLO**

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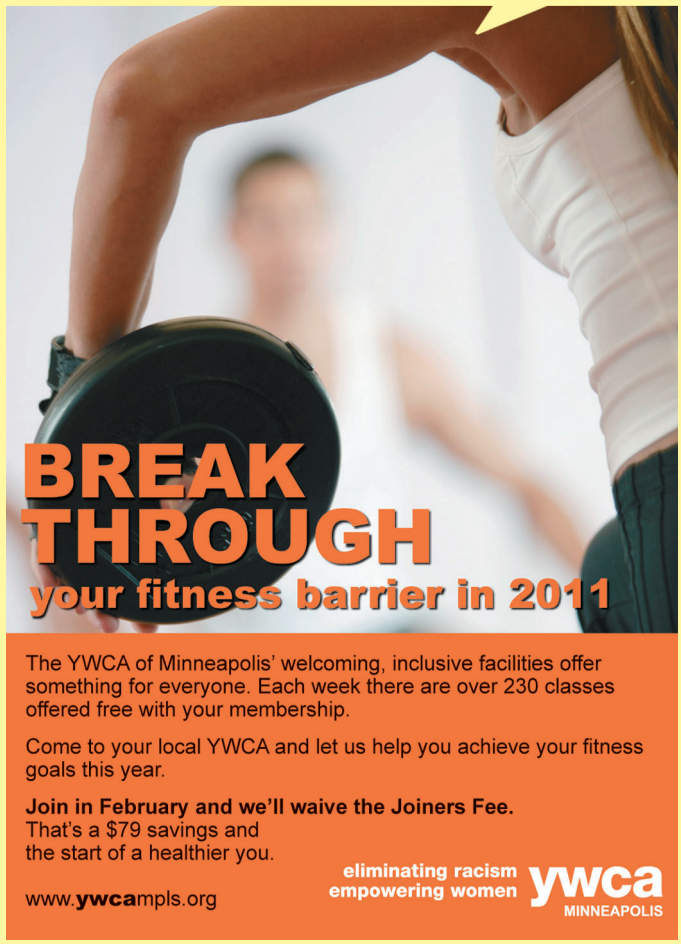
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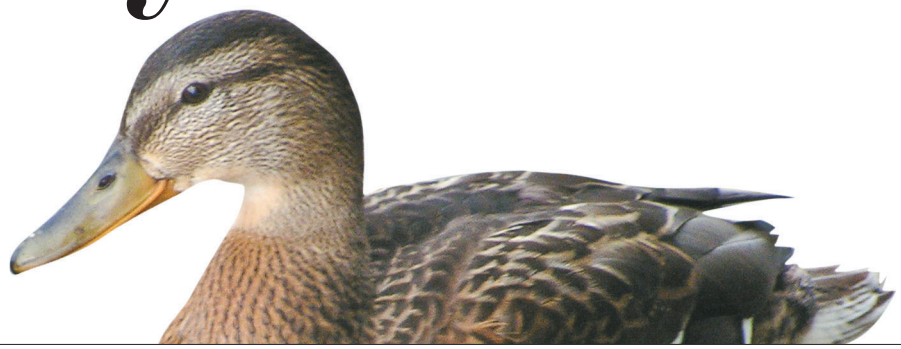
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Dafydd Ducks



Crime paralyzes the nation. The Minnesota economy sputters along. Our future roams the streets, spray-painting goofy symbols on each other's very large, droopy pants. And the 2012 election looms ever closer, with polls clearly showing voters bitterly divided between Tea Party and Logic.

All of which has Americans asking the obvious question: "Sheesh, are there more ducks around than usual, or am I just going nuts?"

You are not going nuts. Well, at least not based on this duck thing. Now, just why your shoes keep making that incessant humming sound only you can hear—well, you're on your own on that one, kiddo.

There *are* more ducks. So many ducks, in fact, that *The New York Times* produced a deep investigative probe of the duck issue. The newspaper's motto: "All the News That's Fit To Print—and This Very Long Story About Ducks."

"Not in six decades has the United States witnessed such a spectacular migration of waterfowl as the one this year," the story says. "Millions of ducks…have filled the skies of the midcontinent in a 'grand passage,' as wildlife biologists call it."

So enormous are these flocks of ducks, according to leading experts, that in addition to the traditional V formation long favored, the creatures have been flying in E, H, and even the tricky Q formations.

In an unconfirmed sighting, Nebraska farmers claim to have seen a formation of perhaps 10,000 canvasbacks flying in quotation marks.

Similar sightings of mallards in ampersands and the percent sign were reported in Wisconsin.

Oddly enough, there were no newspaper reports of any of the foregoing, which I think would have made for some fine reading.

But it was reported that an estimated 83 million ducks made the trip south across the nation's midsection this year.

Some waterfowl, however, flew east, west, and north, after making big, aimless circles in the sky while wearing ridiculous hats. (Beep! Beep! Beep! Caution: Punch Line Ahead!)

Wildlife biologists believe those would be the loons.

And if 83 million ducks eyeing our windshields wouldn't be stressful enough, another thing that has made this year different is that most of the ducks departed the fall feeding grounds at the same time.

It was almost as if 48,000 men named Elmer wearing camouflage clothes and big boots were trying to kill the ducks with shotguns. This, as you know, is *not* the case at all.

Seven of the men were named Al.

Just kidding. It was the weather. This year, according to *The New York Times*, a sudden early-season cold wave froze the ponds of the prairie pothole region in the Dakotas (here the author is referring to East Dakota and West Dakota), North America's "duck factory," prompting most of them to leave en masse.

As you may recall, government officials briefly shut down the duck factory in August when a surprise inspection uncovered shoddy riveting practices in the Web Assembly Division. The company corrected the problem, and was given little more than a slap on the wing.

Sorry. Am I bad?

Anyway, the sudden increase in the number of ducks—while 83 million fly today, official 2009 estimates put the duck population at just 106, with 97 of them hanging by their feet in the windows of Chinese restaurants—is having an unprecedented impact on, well, something or other. That much is clear.

Basically, *The New York Times* story lost me at the point with phrases such as: "Legislation proposed by Republicans in Congress would cut back on federal programs responsible for the habitat restoration."; "At the same time, some of the funds are being redirected from waterfowl habitat to other conservation objectives."; and "Step One: Pluck the bird."

Oops. Consider the source here, but that last one may have come from the copy of *The Joy of Cooking* I am presently holding.

Oh, grow up, for crying out loud. There are 83 million ducks.

Nobody's gonna miss this one.

Bye for now.

Kiss, kiss. **JULIE DAFYDD**

No Daddy Detail, Please

My old straight friend, Debra, called me, and asked me for a strange favor.

Debra's 12-year-old son, Gabe, recently came out to her. Because he doesn't have any gay men (or any men at all, actually) in his life, she wants my husband and me to spend time with him, as role models.

The thing is that we are not exactly kid-friendly gays. I am not sure I am (or want to be) a good role model to anyone, really. I don't get very many days off. I don't even know this kid.

I suppose we could muster a movie, musical, or something at least once or twice, but we might hate it. I know for a fact that we are not Debra's only gay friends.

So, I am wondering if I really have to do it. I care about Debra, and I don't want to hurt her feelings.

Would it be rude to say no to spending time with Debra's kid? What would we say?

The whole thing feels awkward. Help!

—NO DADDY DETAIL, PLEASE

Dear No Daddy Detail, Please:

No one is taking away all your days off, threatening your freedom, or roping you into being a faux Daddy.

More likely, Debra likes you, and admires your relationship. She thinks her son would benefit from exposure to you and your husband.

Is it possible to feel flattered instead defensive?

Maybe it will help to remember that you're not being asked baby-sit for an infant, and that you do have the option to say no.

Before you make a firm decision, and nix the idea of even an occasional outing, why don't you at least meet the kid?

Take Gabe to brunch, so he can learn what gays do on the weekends (but don't serve him a mimosa). One little meeting doesn't mean you'll need to have a meaningful relationship with him.

You actually might enjoy yourself, learn something, or feel good about making a new friend.

Of course, it's always possible that you'll have a dreadful time, but what's really the worst that could happen?

If you absolutely refuse even to give it a chance, just tell Debra that you're an old curmudgeon. She probably will know what you mean.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

My girlfriend, Beth, and I have had some bizarre run-ins with my crazy ex, Vivian, who thinks we are flaunting our relation-

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ship in front of her. We're not. We've asked another friend to tell her to leave us alone, but she has made it clear she's out to make my life miserable.

I realize Vivian is angry, but is it my fault I didn't want to be in that dead and depressing relationship anymore?

I think a person should have the right to leave if she's not happy, but Vivian seems to disagree. Of course, her bitterness makes me feel like I made the right decision.

Anyway, yesterday, my girlfriend found a dead canary at the end of our driveway. I'm pretty sure Vivian was sending some kind of sick message. Beth wants to go to the police, but we really have no true evidence that the dead bird is Vivian's doing.

Should I go along with Beth's suggestion, and report Vivian to the police anyway?

—SAVE THE WILDLIFE

Dear Save The Wildlife:

What message do you think the dead bird would convey? You're a dead canary? This could happen to you?

If the felled canary indeed were a personal message to you, it would mean that Vivian has chosen an incredibly dramatic method of remarking on your new relationship.

Reporting to the police your suspicion of harassment through bird murder would be an equally dramatic response, but not one that Ms. Behavior would recommend.

While it's always disturbing to come upon a dead animal, your finding it outdoors is a lot less bizarre or threatening than it would be if you discovered, say, a bunny boiling on your stove or a horse's head in your bed.

Even though canaries normally are not found in the wild in the United States, it seems a lot more likely the dead canary was a random escapee from a domestic situation, rather than the scenario you're imagining: that Vivian bought, killed, and planted the canary at the end of your driveway to send you a message.

So, unless you really have a substantive reason to believe that your ex is crazy enough to go around choking innocent birds, and tossing them onto your driveway, you have no reason to go to the police.

Meanwhile, avoid Vivian to the best of your ability, and tell Beth to stop stirring up trouble. **MERYL COHN**

© 2011 Meryl Cohn. Address questions and correspondence to <msbehavior@aol.com>. She is the author of Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette *(Houghton Mifflin). Signed copies are available directly from the author.*





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The Idea Home presented by Energy Panel Structures; Designed by Domain Architecture & Design; fully landscaped by Mom's Landscaping & Design — Step inside this unique home completely built by energy panels and learn the latest trends for energy efficiency for your home. As you tour the home you will see innovative landscaping, design, home furnishing, kitchen appliances and more!

Explore the Glorious Music-Themed Feature Gardens, presented by Star Tribune — Be fascinated by one of the nation's most renowned garden and landscaping exhibits. Created by top local landscapers and garden centers. New this year, the stunning gardens are themed to classic songs like *Margaritaville*, *Imagine* and more! Be sure to cast your vote for the People's Choice Award.



Taniya Nayak

Learn Helpful Tips from Taniya Nayak of HGTV's *Designed To Sell*, sponsored by Mohawk — As a Designer on Designed to Sell, one of HGTV's hit shows, Taniya has experience with creating unique spaces on a limited budget. Plus hear behind the scenes stories from the show!



Andrew Downward

Meet Andrew Downward of HGTV's *Divine Design* — As the painter and color coordinator on HGTV's *Divine Design*, Andrew has become one of North America's most recognized paint specialists. He will share painting tips and tricks during his presentations for any level of painter!

One-Of-A-Kind Fashion Shows with *Project Runway's* Christopher Straub — Attend this one-of-a-kind event only at the Home & Garden Show! See how Minnesotan Christopher Straub is inspired by products from Home Depot to design a one-of-a-kind dress. Plus a special presentation on Saturday at 6pm with Staci from KS95 and MSP Magazine Style Editor, Allison Kaplan.

Kitchen Stage, presented by ALL Incorporated
This always popular stage features valuable cooking demonstrations, quick and easy family meals, and the fan-favorite celebrity cooking contest with your favorite local personalities. Register to win a $5,000 Kitchen prize given away each day at the show! Register at the show or online at homeandgardenshow.com.

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TY PENNINGTON OFFICIALLY ENDORSES THIS SHOW BUT WILL NOT BE APPEARING THIS YEAR.

SHOW DATES AND TIMES

Wednesday	March 2	Noon – 9pm
Thursday	March 3	10am – 9pm
Friday	March 4	10am – 9pm
Saturday	March 5	9am – 10pm
Sunday	March 6	9am – 6pm

TICKET PRICES:
Adults – **$13**
Children Ages 6-12 – **$4**
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